Dacer case: Who owned second white Revo?

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2001 ★ 80 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 94 ₱15

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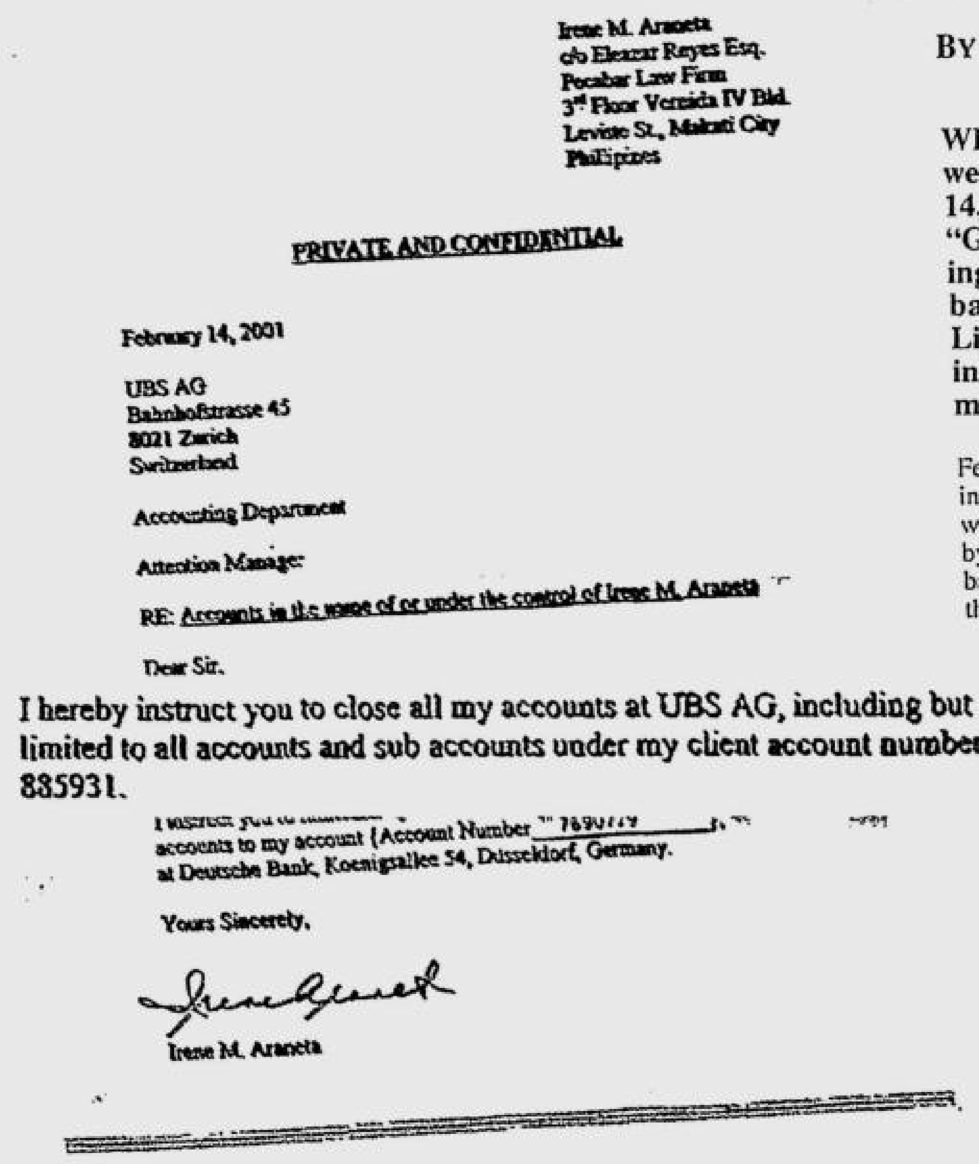
HULING-HULI SA AKTO, AYON KAY JACOBI!

Irene's attempt to move Marcos billions exposed

Bank records provided by Jacobi

IRENE and Greggy Araneta dropped their guard when they allegedly acknowledged the existence of the $13.2-B "885931" account in Union Bank of Switzerland in a panicked attempt to transfer the funds to Germany. At right is a letter allegedly signed by Irene in the presence of a Deutsche Bank official.



Irene M. Araneta
c/o Eleazar Reyes Esq.
Pecabar Law Firm
3rd Floor Vernida IV Bld.
Leviste St., Makati City
Philippines

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 14, 2001

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RE: Accounts in the name of or under the control of Irene M. Araneta

Dear Sir,

I hereby instruct you to close all my accounts at UBS AG, including but not limited to all accounts and sub accounts under my client account number 885931.

I instruct you to [illegible] accounts to my account (Account Number [illegible]) at Deutsche Bank, Koenigsallee 54, Dusseldorf, Germany.

Yours Sincerely,

Irene M. Araneta

By Donna S. Cueto

(First of a series)

WHILE other couples all over the world were celebrating Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, Irene Marcos and husband Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III were secretly trying to launder billions of dollars kept in bank accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein through Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany, bank documents show.

For the first time, heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos have apparently been caught in the act of attempting to launder their fabled wealth, as indicated by the documents obtained by Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi from bank sources and anti-money laundering authorities in Germany.

Bank surveillance cameras also allegedly recorded the Aranetas trying to move the deposits, including at least $13.2 billion in the controversial "885931" account in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), into a newly opened account at Deutsche Bank.

They incriminated themselves in documents that they allegedly signed and executed before a Deutsche Bank official whom they thought was an unscrupulous banker acting in their interests.

Unknown to them, they were purportedly being monitored by anti-money laundering authorities in Germany who had learned, weeks before the couple went to that country, of the Aranetas' alleged plan to get their secret funds out of Switzerland.

IRENE'S/ A20

PSG chief leads new generals

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has promoted the first batch of officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines under her administration.

The group comprised one Navy officer and three Army high-ranking officers, including Col. Glenn Rabonza, Presidential Security Group chief, who was promoted to brigadier general.

Rabonza, a member of Class '70 of the Philippine Military Academy, is the first PSG commander in the Macapagal administration.

Brig. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, a classmate of Rabonza's at the PMA, was awarded a second star with his promotion to major general.

PSG/ A20

NPC, Tantangco bloc united against Namfrel

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE NATIONAL Press Club has leaped out of the blue, representing itself as an alternative to the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in conducting a quick count of the results of the May midterm elections.

Its proposal has shaken the newspaper industry in utter disbelief, given that the NPC neither has undertaken such an ambitious project in the past nor has the facility, experience and funds to conduct a quick count of votes of such magnitude.

The only quick count it has a demonstrated capacity to perform is during its annual elections for board of directors. These elections have, in recent years, not been regarded as a model of probity by much of the newspaper industry. The present reputation of the NPC rests on its being the watering hole of less than serious journalists who can buy drinks and indifferent food at the NPC restaurant and bar, cheaper than those in the dives of Ermita and Malate.

If the NPC had proposed that it would expand its bar, it would have been widely applauded by club members whose habitats are located near the club. But conduct a quick count? Forget it.

The NPC proposal came amid sustained bashing of Namfrel by a group of Commission on Elections officials spearheaded by Commissioner Luzviminda Tantangco, who has accused the Namfrel of colluding with some Comelec officials in "trending" the 1987 senatorial election results to favor some candidates. In her own infamous study, published in 1992, Tantangco concluded that Namfrel was party to electoral fraud that changed the counting outcome.

A panel of University of the Philippines

NPC/ A19

Reds ready to release Army major

By Juliet L. Javellana, Rocky Nazareno and Delfin T. Mallari

THINGS are looking up for the resumption of peace talks between the government and communist rebels next month—and captured Army Maj. Noel Buan, too.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste yesterday said the New People's Army was ready to release Buan to a humanitarian mission that she heads before the scheduled start of the peace talks.

Legarda said exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison assured her in a telephone conversation on Saturday night that the captured officer would be freed without any conditions.

Her disclosure came a day after the communist-led National Democratic Front announced that it would resume peace talks with the government in a mutually acceptable venue on April 27.

REDS/ A7

Militarists tagged in cop's death

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The death of Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin could have been prevented had President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the month-long ceasefire in Southern Tagalog much earlier, according to communist leader Jose Maria Sison.

"This tragic event was completely unnecessary and avoidable," he said.

Sison, who serves as consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), blamed the "militarist clique" in the Macapagal administration for the death of the NPA captive.

MILITARISTS/ A7

DA BEST PA RIN ANG PINOY!
AT ANG PINAY!!

Pinays enjoy 'great sex,' poll shows

MOST married Filipinas are more sexually satisfied with their husbands compared with their counterparts in Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea and Singapore, according to a recent TIME Asia survey.

Sixty-eight percent of Filipino women said they always had "great sex" with their husbands. This level of satisfaction is three times higher than that of South

PINAYS/ A19

Benipayo not used to high-profile job

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FROM the cold into the frying pan.

This is what Alfredo Benipayo has found himself in after becoming chair of the Commission on Elections.

From the comfort of his office as Supreme Court administrator, Benipayo was thrust into the limelight.

And from the way he has been dealing with the press almost a month into his term, it seems that he's not enjoying the extra attention.

In an ambush interview after an en banc hearing on the accreditation of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), Benipayo cut short a female reporter's questions on the precinct-mapping project.

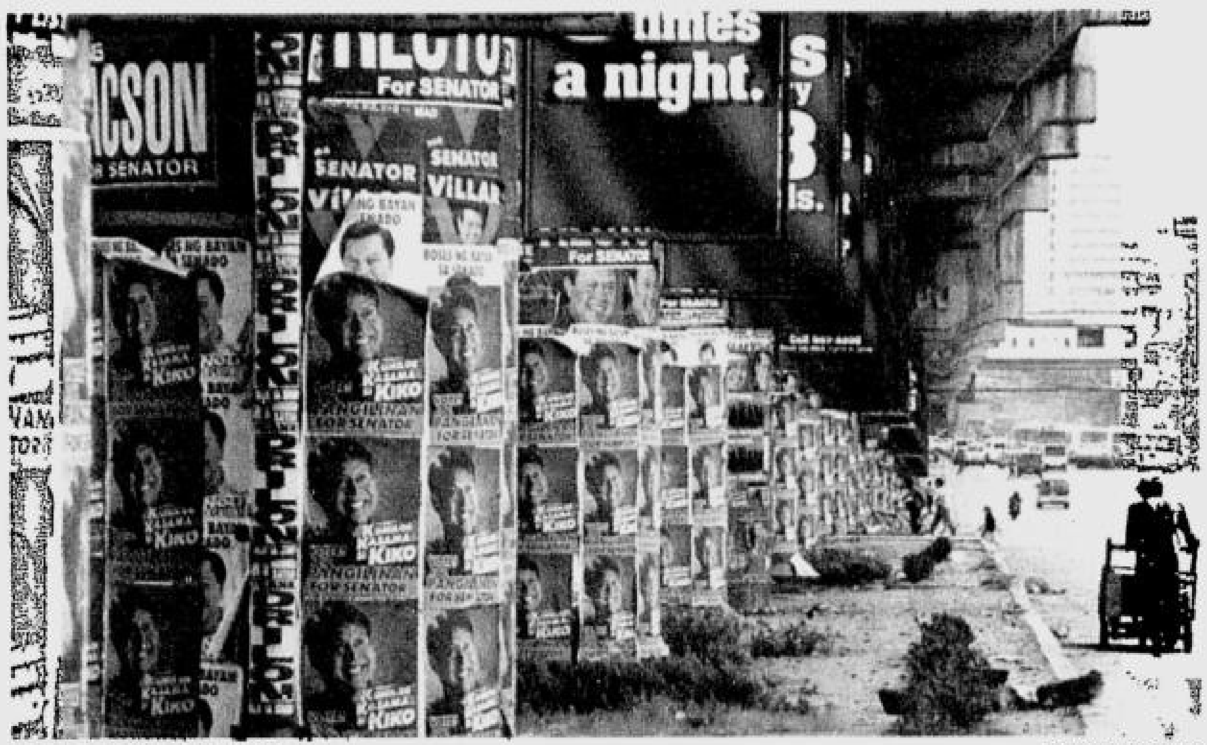
"*Tama na, pagod na ako* (That's enough. I'm already tired)," he said.

The reporter rephrased the question and smiled to break the tension. Benipayo was forced to answer before he retreated to his office.

In another interview, the INQUIRER tried to ask a follow-up question on petitions

BENIPAYO/ A20

BENIPAYO



EDWIN BACASMAS

WHO'S TO BLAME?
Despite a Comelec ban, election campaign posters are sprouting everywhere, even under the MRT tracks.

SINO NGA KAYA?

Who owned second white Revo?

DACER

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHO owned the second white Toyota Revo car whose occupants dumped a similar vehicle of missing public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer in a ravine in Maragondon, Cavite last Nov. 27?

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation are exploring the possibility that the second Revo belonged to operatives of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force linked to the disappearance of Dacer, who was abducted by gunmen on Nov. 24.

Citing information from a PAOCTF employee, an NBI source said Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, ex-PAOCTF chief for Luzon, turned red and fidgety after Cavite police found Dacer's vehicle.

Dacer's white Revo was reported to have been abandoned by a group of armed men using a car of similar make and color in Maragondon.

On the night of Nov. 27, Mancao was reported to have been "very furious" because the PAOCTF policemen he had sent for an "operation in Cavite" had not yet returned, the NBI source said, quoting the PAOCTF employee.

The team left Camp Crame in a white Revo, said the NBI source, fueling NBI agents' suspicion that Mancao had a hand in the PR man's abduction.

This is one of the angles being pursued by NBI agents to pin Mancao, ex-PAOCTF-Visayas chief Senior Supt. Teofilo Vina, and other PAOCTF officials to the Dacer case, according to the NBI source.

Another PAOCTF employee has called the INQUIRER and confirmed the NBI information that Mancao was angry at the time, asking his subordinates inside the PAOCTF office why his team had not returned as expected.

"*Galit na galit siya dahil hindi pa bumabalik 'yung* agents *na may dala ng* Revo *mula* Cavite (He was very, very angry because his agents using a Revo had not yet returned from Cavite)," the caller said. "*Ang init ng ulo n'ya, tapos nagsisisigaw sa opisina* (He was short-tempered and was yelling in the office)."

According to Maragondon residents, a second white Revo escorted Dacer's vehicle when it was dumped in the area.

But until yesterday, NBI agents refused to say if the Revo car used by Mancao's men and the Revo escort car were one and the same. The agents are still looking into the matter, the source added.

Maragondon police chief Supt. Guillermo Liquigan said two white Revos, one of which was later identified as belonging to Dacer, were seen circling the area at about 9 p.m. on Nov. 27, 2000.

Residents saw a silhouette of a man holding a hand-held radio while driving the second Revo, Liquigan said in a previous interview.

Minutes later, the residents heard the sound of a bursting tire as Dacer's Revo plunged into the ravine, according to police reports.

Liquigan said the second Revo might have been used as an escape vehicle by those who dumped Dacer's vehicle.

Mancao could not be contacted for a reaction, but former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson again denied any involvement in the abduction of Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

In a statement, Lacson, a senatorial candidate under the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa, claimed the administration, through Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco and Pastor Saycon, had hatched a "sinister" plot, under the code name "Oplan Lucky Nine," to do a demolition job on opposition candidates.

Limcaoco is the campaign manager of the administration People Power Coalition, while Saycon is an official of the Council of Philippine Affairs.

"We have closely watched the various newspaper reports linking me to the Dacer case and we found out that the un-attributed reports were planted by a special operations group in Camp Crame," Lacson said.

Gloria, Congress execs to discuss special session

By M. P. Marfil and G. Lacuarta

A MOVE to compel the Commission on Elections to hold a special registration for 4.5 million young Filipinos who would otherwise not be able to vote on May 14 is steadily gaining ground as President Macapagal-Arroyo seeks a meeting with Congress leaders today.

According to a Palace official, the President will meet this morning with Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to discuss the possibility of holding a special session of Congress to amend the election law.

The existing law prohibits the holding of registration 120 days before a regular election.

Belmonte said yesterday he was confident the House can muster a quorum once the President calls a special session to approve the bill for a special registration as no lawmaker can afford to antagonize a large bloc of voters.

As this developed, Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo warned yesterday the poll body would be forced to halt its preparations for the May 14 elections if it is compelled to hold a special registration.

"We have to stop the presses, we have to stop everything," Benipayo said in a news conference at the national conference of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting yesterday.

Benipayo explained the Comelec would need to print forms to be used in the special registration, and would therefore have to stop the printing of ballots and election returns for the May 14 elections.

Ms Macapagal earlier said she was against the postponement of the May 14 elections. She said the idea of delaying the polls just to accommodate a special registration for first-time voters was "not acceptable."

But presidential spokesperson and chief of staff Renato Corona yesterday said the President was still prepared to call for a special Congress session to find a "legal remedy to the disenfranchisement of first-time voters."

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration has said it would make available funds "of less than a P100 million" for the special registration. *With a report from Donna S. Cueto*

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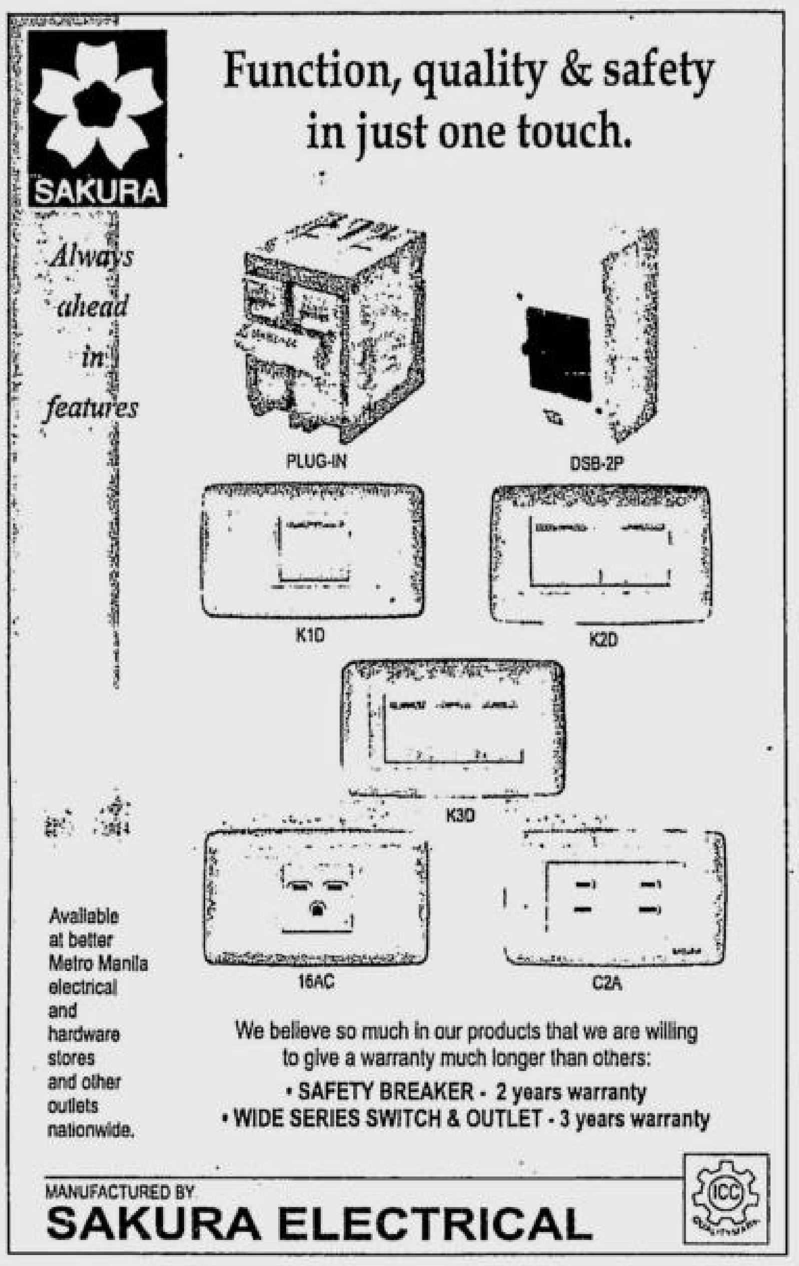
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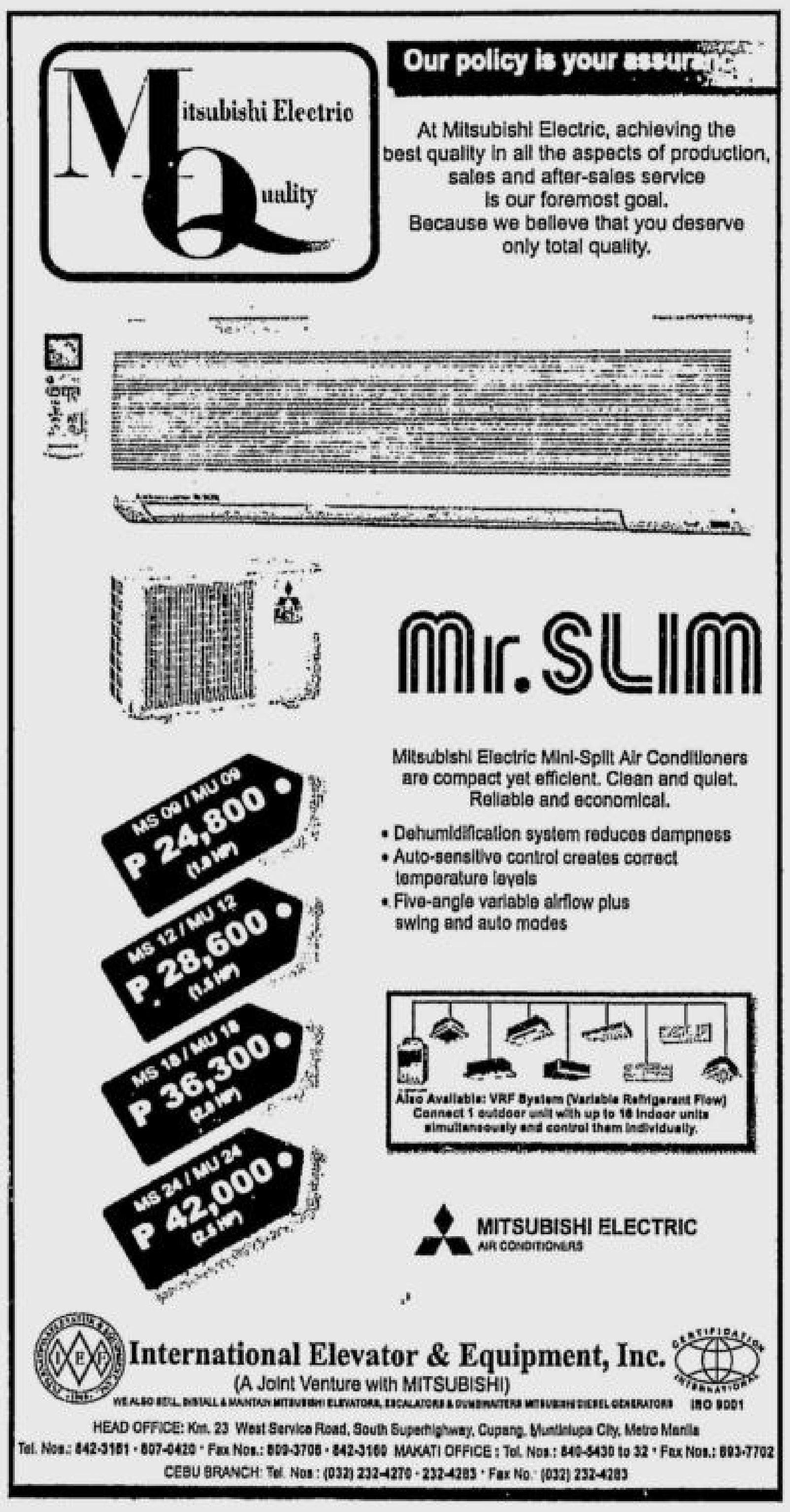
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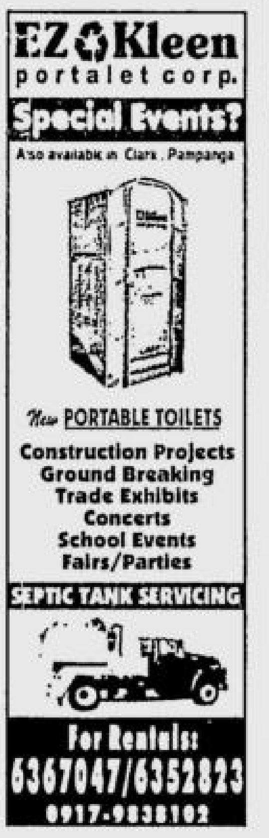
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7 farmers shot dead in Lanao del Norte

'Woman survived attack by playing dead'

UNIDENTIFIED gunmen shot dead seven farmers in Lanao del Norte province on Saturday, while an eighth victim survived with gunshot wounds by feigning death, the military said yesterday in Zamboanga City.

The farmers were walking to their farm to harvest crops in Salvador town when the gunmen opened fire using high-powered automatic rifles, army spokesman Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said. A 22-year-old woman in the group, who suffered gunshot wounds, survived the attack. "She played dead, prompting the suspects to leave the area," Servando said. Two of those killed were teenage boys.

The killers escaped.

Servando said the attack occurred in an area where suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the biggest rebel group fighting for an Islamic state in the South, had been linked to cattle-rustling incidents.

Police investigators say a land dispute may have caused the attack but they have not ruled out the involvement of Moro rebels who occasionally demand "revolutionary taxes" from farmers in the area and threaten those who refuse to pay, according to Servando.

On Friday, MILF guerrillas attacked soldiers patrolling the town of Buldon in Maguindanao, triggering fighting that left one infantryman dead, the military said.

It was not immediately known whether the rebels sustained casualties.

Two soldiers were also critically wounded on the same day after they stepped on a landmine planted by MILF rebels in the town of Shariff Aguak, also in Maguindanao.

On Thursday, about a dozen unidentified men on horses attacked a remote farming village in Sarangani province, firing on several huts then hauling several head of cattle as they fled, the military said yesterday.

A villager was injured in the shooting in Biangan village in Sarangani late Thursday and army troops have been deployed there to prevent another attack, officials said.

Moro guerrillas have a presence in the hinterlands of Sarangani, but regional military spokesman Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the attack apparently was carried out by bandits in the area.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration last month ordered a unilateral suspension of military offensive against the MILF and offered to restart stalled peace negotiations.

The MILF leadership has welcomed the peace and said its central committee was discussing whether it would return to the negotiating table.

Peace talks with the MILF collapsed last year after the military, on orders of then President Joseph Estrada, launched a full-scale offensive against the separatists and seized dozens of rebel bases in Mindanao. *Inquirer wires*

HK maids protest 'modern-day slavery'

HONG KONG—More than 100 foreign maids gathered at a downtown park Sunday to complain about ill treatment at the hands of employers, saying they were living in "modern-day slavery" in wealthy Hong Kong.

Some of the speakers, representing maids from India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, railed against the "unfair" treatment they receive in Hong Kong.

"If one considers the fact that foreign domestic helpers are on-duty for an average of 16 hours per day, they only get a dismal $7.54 Hong Kong (US$0.97) per hour," said Dolores Balladares, vice chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

The gathering was held belatedly to mark International Women's Day, which was celebrated throughout the world on Thursday.

According to the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, there are around 200,000 foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong, with 90 percent coming from the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. *AP*

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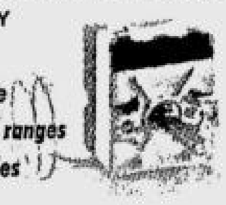

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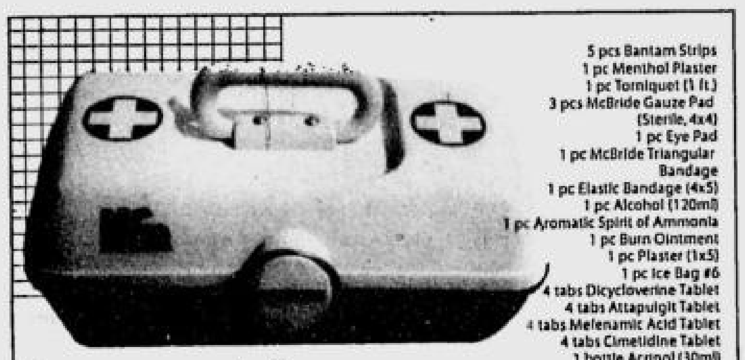

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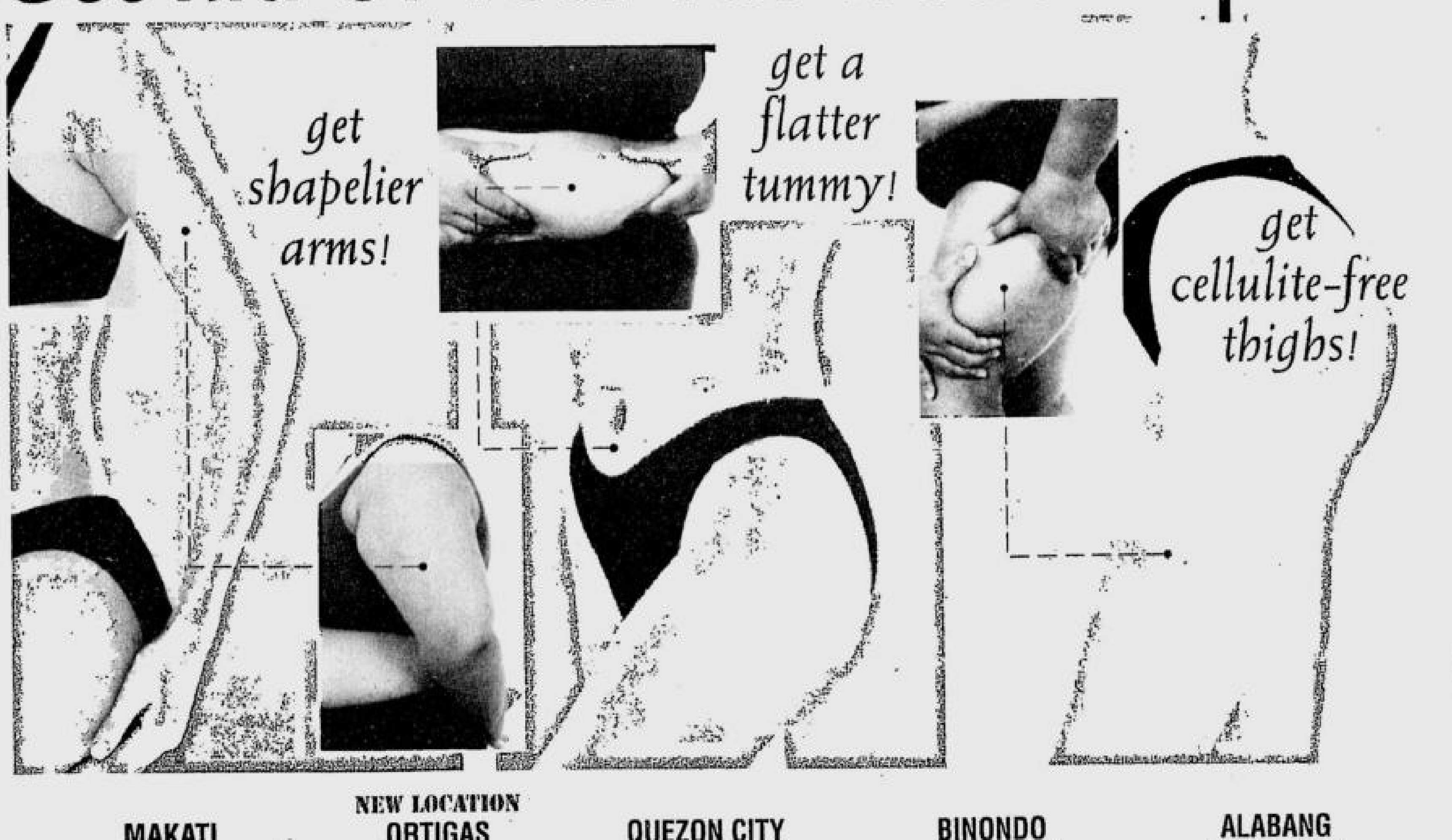

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HARASSMENT IN MANILA?

PPC Senate bets barred entry at Plaza Miranda, Tutuban mall

By Juliet Labog Javellana

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition suffered its first campaign blow on Saturday when its senatorial candidates were refused entry to two public areas in Manila.

The PPC candidates were barred from entering the Tutuban Center Mall, which is run by the city government, and prevented from staging a "mini-rally" in Plaza Miranda Saturday morning.

The PPC, however, was able hold a rally in a small playground near the Manila Zoo, but it was the briefest it had staged so far in the past month.

Moreover, President Macapagal-Arroyo canceled her appearance at the last minute because the Presidential Security Group deemed the area a "security risk." The rally site was surrounded by small alleys, which could hardly squeeze in the President's car and those of her escorts.

At 7 p.m., not one candidate was on stage and it was left for actress Via Veloso to entertain the small crowd that remained at the Leveriza playground. Candidate Ralph Recto arrived shortly gave a brief speech and promptly left. The rally was over in less than two hours.

Pro-Erap mayor

A PPC official, who asked not to be named, blamed Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for the fiasco in the three places.

"Mayor Atienza is pro-Erap, so what can you expect?" the PPC official told the INQUIRER.

But PPC spokesman Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco was more cautious.

"I have no idea (if Atienza was pro-Erap). But I believe it was not the fault of Mayor Atienza. Maybe some misguided elements in the city government were behind this harassment of the PPC candidates," Limcaoco said.

Just the same, Limcaoco said, he asked Rep. Butch Abad, president of the Liberal Party where Atienza belongs, to talk to the mayor about the bad Saturday for the PPC.

"I just asked him to call Mayor Atienza to ensure that Manila would be problem-free for all candidates. I think the mayor gave an assurance that he had nothing to do with the problems," Limcaoco said.

No mall tour

Limcaoco said a barangay official, whom he did not name, barred PPC candidates from conducting a "mall tour" of the Tutuban shopping center. "They were told they cannot enter the mall," he said.

Barred entry were former Speaker Manuel Villar, lawyer Francis Pangilinan and economist Solita "Winnie" Monsod who arrived at around 10 a.m. to shake hands with vendors and shoppers.

Limcaoco said he was surprised by the move because he had asked former Manila mayor Mel Lopez to secure a permit for the Tutuban and Divisoria tours.

Rep. Wigberto Tañada brought a mini-stage mounted on top of a truck to hold his own rally at about 2:30 p.m. at Plaza Miranda, scene of many protest actions against the Marcos dictatorship.

"He was not allowed to hold the rally and it was really flabbergasting because it is a public place," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco said the PPC would have "bigger rallies" in Manila in the next two months.

"We hope there will be no more problems at the time even if his (Atienza's) local slate is not with us," Limcaoco said.

The LP is one of the parties included in the administration coalition. It has two candidates in the slate—Tañada and Pangilinan.

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For the period from July 1, 1998 up to January 31, 2001, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) denied 974 applications for different types of visa, the list of which is with the office of Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma, Executive Chairman, Board of Special Inquiry. Concerned foreigners/applicants are directed to take appropriate actions to maintain their lawful immigration status within fifteen (15) days from date of last publication. Failure to do so, the BI shall initiate deportation proceedings against them.

Publish this ORDER in three (3) newspapers of general circulation once (1) a week for four (4) consecutive weeks.

SO ORDERED.

12 February 2001

(Sgd.) ANDREA D. DOMINGO
Commissioner

February 20, 26, March 5 & 12, 2001 -- Inquirer

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Gloria dismisses military coup talk

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has dismissed talk of a possible army coup against her government, saying the military is now a professional institution.

"I am not afraid of coup attempts," Ms Macapagal said in an interview published yesterday.

"The military is very different from the military of 1986," she said, referring to a series of failed army coup attempts in the late 1980s after the ouster of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"The military was so politicized during martial law but in these times they are very, very professional," she said.

Some newspapers have reported restiveness among some soldiers because of alleged corruption among some senior officers and rivalry between generals over who will replace chief of staff General Angelo Reyes, who is retiring this month.

Senate defense committee chair Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday the key role played by the armed forces in Macapagal's rise to the presidency had given the military a taste of political power which might encourage it to intervene in politics again.

Ms Macapagal took power in January after the military withdrew support from disgraced leader Joseph Estrada at the peak of a "people power" revolt during which tens of thousands of Filipinos took to the streets demanding his resignation.

"Once you give soldiers a taste of political power, it is very difficult to send them back to barracks," Biazon said in a television interview.

The popular uprising against Estrada was triggered by the collapse of his impeachment trial before the Senate on charges that he had enriched himself while in office.

Estrada is now facing investigation for alleged corruption, bribery and economic plunder, the last offence is punishable by death.

Ms Macapagal brushed aside complaints from Estrada that her administration was persecuting him.

"I have no policy of vindictiveness," she said. "I pity him."

Ms Macapagal dismissed newspaper reports that Estrada might seek political asylum in the United States to avoid criminal prosecution at home.

"They don't want him there," she said. *Reuters*

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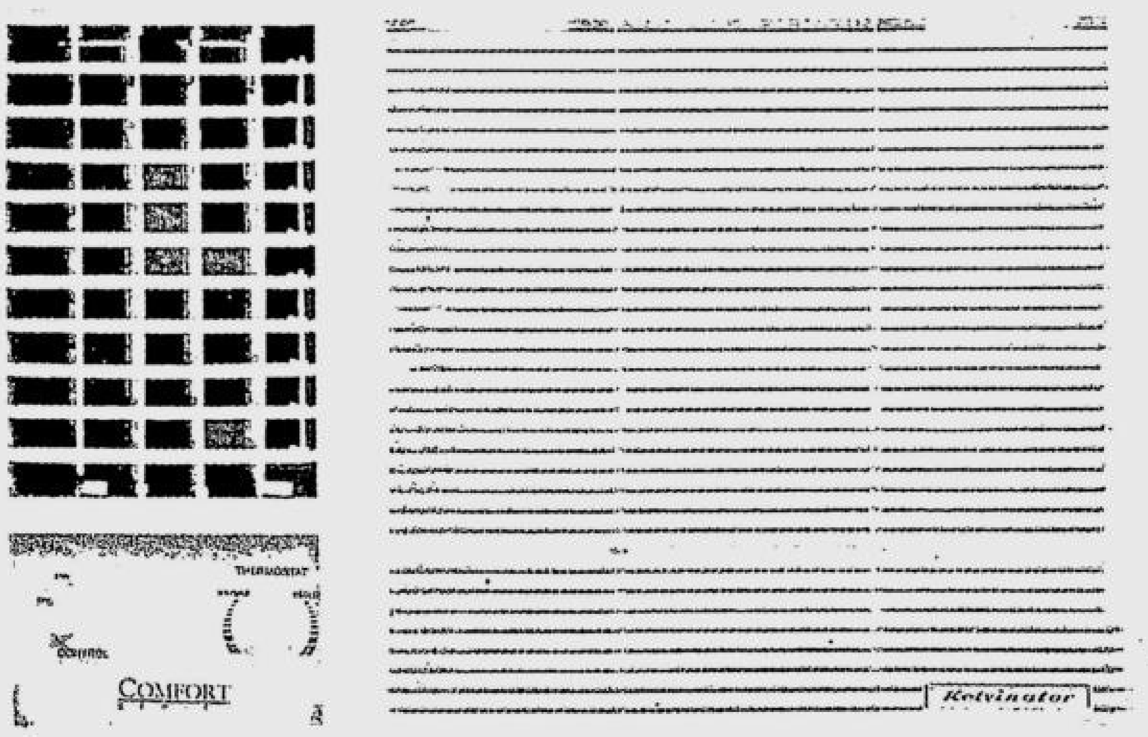

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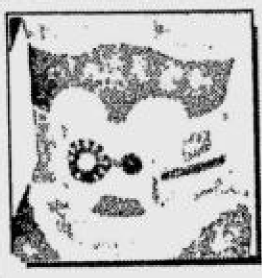

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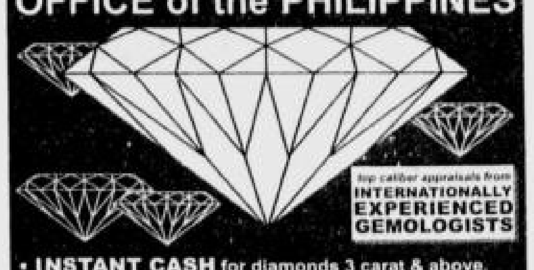

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Freeze on Erap assets sought

ADMINISTRATION candidates for senator yesterday sought a freeze of the assets of ousted President Joseph Estrada because, they said, these will be used against them to ensure his candidates' victory in the May 14 elections.

Rep. Joker Arroyo, a member of the House panel that prosecuted Estrada at his Senate impeachment trial, said candidates of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa are "desperate" to assume office, if only to keep the former president out of jail.

"Estrada will move heaven and earth to stay out of jail," Arroyo said. "He will use his illegally-gotten money to boost the campaigns of the PnM candidates (whose popularity is dwindling)."

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, who with Arroyo is running under the administration's People Power Coalition, said the assets and liabilities of Estrada and his mistresses should be made public.

"We need to freeze Estrada's assets including (those of) his mistresses. He will use his ill-gotten wealth against us and (the) poor people will suffer because of this," she said.

Chato, former Bureau of Internal Revenue chief, also urged the electorate not to sell their votes to the PMC, but support the candidates who have outstanding records.

Arroyo and Chato made the statements in reaction to the confirmation by Sen. Blas Ople that Estrada will help finance the campaigns of opposition candidates on the local and national levels.

Arroyo said the Estrada camp was hard-pressed to snatch a win from the administration candidates since a clean sweep of the senatorial polls by the ruling PPC was "real."

"They can feel the heat of a 13-0 sweep by the PPC," Arroyo said. "*Sila ang pupulutin sa kangkungan kung hindi sila gagamit ng pera.* (It is they who will be picked up in the cabbage patch if they do not use money)."

"There is no way that the PMC will win without resorting to vote-buying and using their dirty money," he added.

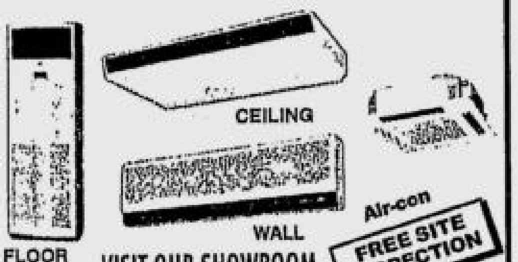
Immediately after he was deposed from the presidency on Jan. 20, Estrada's known assets in local banks were frozen by authorities.

It was believed, however, that he was able to move several accounts before they were discovered, and other accounts are in the names of his mistresses.

Estrada has also denied trying to cause instability in the political arena.

Although insisting he is still president, he has said he is willing to abide by the decisions of the courts and constitutional processes.

Last week, the Supreme Court ruled that Ms Macapagal was the legitimate president of the country and that Estrada had lost his immunity from prosecution. Estrada was given 15 days to appeal the ruling. *Christian V. Esguerra*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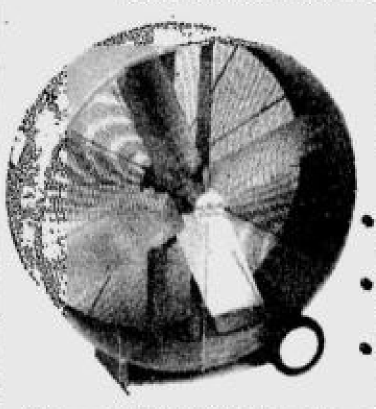
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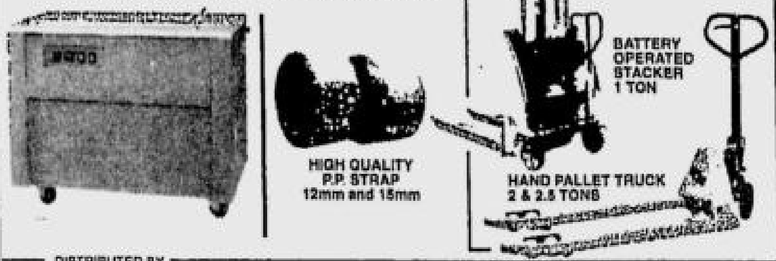
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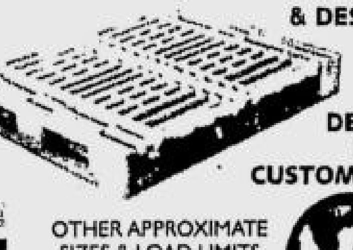
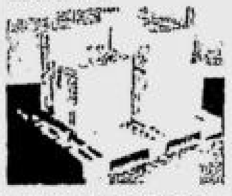

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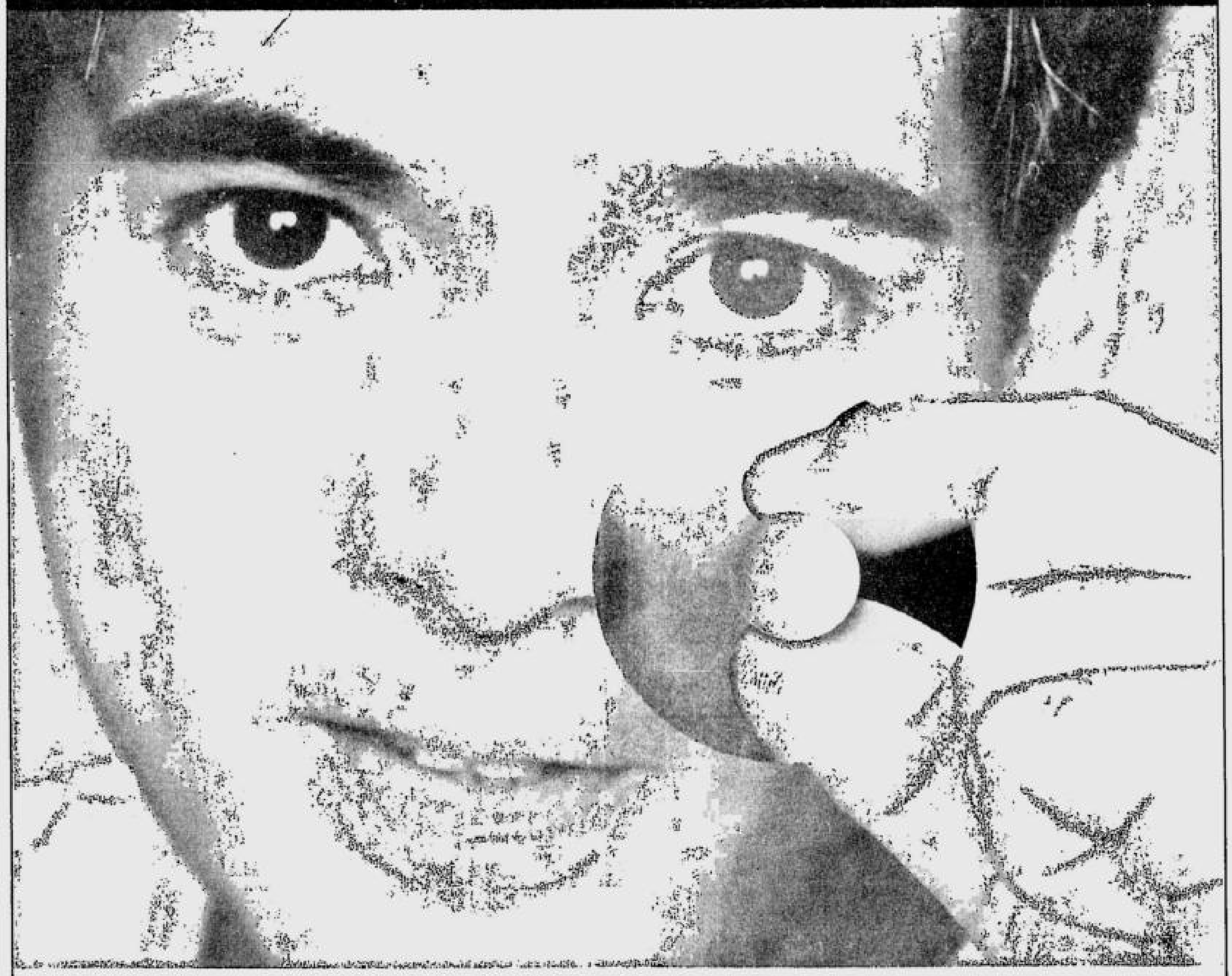
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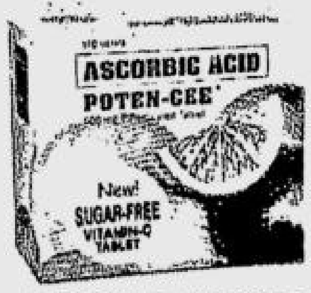
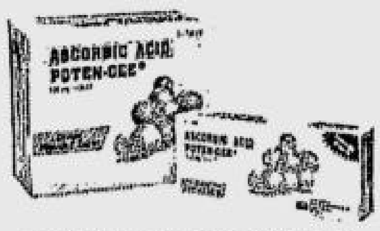

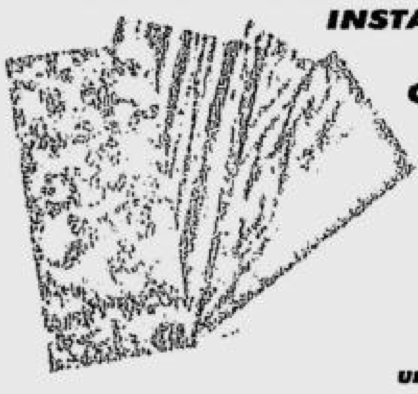
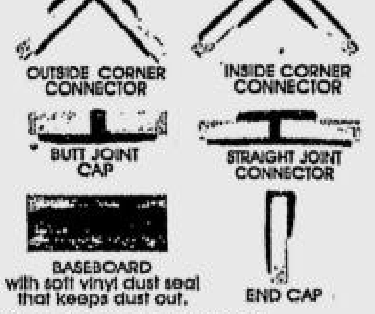
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Reds ready to release Army major

(From page A1)

"I'm ready to release Buan to you . . . on humanitarian grounds," Legarda quoted Sison as telling her in a phone call from the Dutch city of Utrecht where he and other NDF leaders are based.

Legarda said Sison's only request was for her to send him a copy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's order suspending military operations in 11 Southern Tagalog provinces.

Ms Macapagal on Friday declared a month-long ceasefire in the region to allow the safe release of Buan, who has been held captive by NPA guerrillas for the past 20 months.

"Joma told me very clearly that there was no need for a prisoner swap. He's happy with it (Ms Macapagal's suspension of military operations)," Legarda said. The ceasefire starts today.

She said Sison also told her that the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, would soon announce a truce in the same area to reciprocate the government's gesture of good faith.

"An emissary will come to me in a few days to finalize the details of Buan's release in a province somewhere in Southern Tagalog," Legarda said.

Buan, intelligence chief of the AFP Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Guillermo Nakar, was seized by guerrillas under the NPA Melito Glor Command in July 1999.

Cielo Buan

In Lucena City, the captured officer's wife, Cielo Buan, said Legarda had told her about her telephone conversation with Sison.

"I now fully believe that this a serious and sincere effort to bring about the safe release of Noel . . . There is something very positive for us that is slowly unfolding," she told the INQUIRER.

"Let's help them (Legarda's mission) finish its task of bringing Noel back to us," she added.

Legarda, Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela and Iglesia Filipino Independiente Supreme Bishop Tomas Millena, led a humanitarian mission that met with NDF leaders in the Netherlands in January last year to seek the release of Buan, as well as Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin.

The NDF leaders agreed to release the two officers if then President Joseph Estrada would declare a suspension of military operations in Southern Tagalog.

Estrada refused. The rebels subsequently called off peace talks with the Estrada administration after the Senate approved the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement allowing the resumption of large-scale US military exercises in the country.

"Had the Estrada administration respected the (release) process, Martin would still be alive today," Legarda said.

Martin, police chief of Dolores, Quezon, was seized by NPA rebels in November 1999. He was shot and bled to death when guerrillas holding him clashed with government troops in Quezon on Thursday, the military said. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

The soldiers were able to recover Martin alive but he died later when helicopters failed to arrive because of bad weather, officials said.

Legarda said she was prepared to escort Buan to ensure that he would not suffer the same fate that befell Martin.

Even so, Legarda cited the need to coordinate Buan's release with the military and police. She added that both sides must observe a ceasefire during Buan's release.

"A unilateral ceasefire is like a man trying to marry a woman without her consent. The woman has to willingly agree for the marriage to take place and be successful," she said.

Exploratory talks

Government and NDF representatives agreed to a resumption of peace negotiations on April 27 after holding exploratory meetings from March 6 to 9 in the Dutch cities of The Hague and Utrecht.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, one of the government representatives, said the two panels opened their March 9 meeting at the Mercure Hotel in The Hague already saddled with the news of Martin's death.

"Both sides were sad about what happened. But we didn't blame each other," said Braganza, who arrived Saturday night from the Netherlands with former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello, head of the government team, and human rights lawyer Rene Sarmiento.

Braganza said the NDF panel took it as a gesture of goodwill on Ms Macapagal's part when she suspended military operations instead of canceling the exploratory talks.

"We knew that what happened to Martin should not stop us (from pursuing peace)," Braganza said.

Sources said the government negotiators would propose to Ms Macapagal that the talks be held in Oslo, Norway.

Braganza said the success of the exploratory talks showed "the sincerity and serious efforts of the Macapagal administration and the communist side to forge lasting peace."

Militarists . . .

(From page A1)

Since the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, the NDF had been ready to release the NPA prisoners, he claimed.

"This fact is known to the humanitarian and peace mission of Sen. Loren Legarda, as well as former Speaker Jose de Venecia," Sison said.

But he alleged that Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and some top-ranking military officers carried over from the Estrada administration had "blocked the issuance of the Somo (suspension of military operations) and escalated offensive military operations against the NPA in Southern Tagalog and other parts of the country."

Sison said the NDF was still waiting for an official copy of Ms Macapagal's order suspending military operations.

Loren Legarda

He said the order should reach the NDF negotiating panel, either through the government negotiating panel or the peace mission of Legarda, Supreme Bishop Tomas Millamena of the Philippine Independent Church and Bishop Jesus Varela.

As soon as the NDF negotiating panel receives the copy of the ceasefire order, "the NDF shall issue the order to release Maj. Noel Buan and the ceasefire order to the NPA's Melito Glor Command in order to reciprocate the Somo," Sison said.

Enough time is needed for the NDF negotiating panel to communicate with its units and make arrangements for Buan's release, and for the Melito Glor Command to verify whether the government's ceasefire order is being followed by the military, police and militia, according to Sison.

Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, Quezon police director, yesterday challenged NPA leader Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal to order his men to reciprocate the government's Somo.

"I will hold my men. I trust him to also hold his. There will be no trouble," Alejandrino said.

He welcomed the Somo declaration but expressed apprehension over NPA attacks on government forces.

Last week, communist rebels staged a daring daytime raid on the police station of the island-municipality of Burdeos in Quezon.

Gov. Wilfrido Enverga also welcomed the Somo in the province.

"Let us all set as an example the unfortunate (death) of Major Martin," Enverga said.

Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, head of AFP units in Southern Luzon, said "this is the third time the government has issued a Somo. I don't see any reason now for them (the NPA rebels) not to accept it this time."

Ms Macapagal has called for a 30-day Somo in 11 Southern Tagalog provinces to ensure the safe release of Buan.

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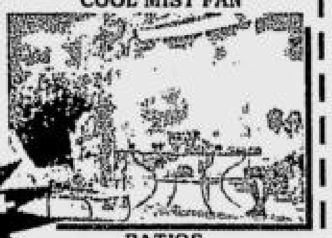

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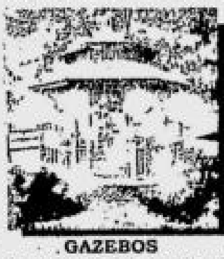

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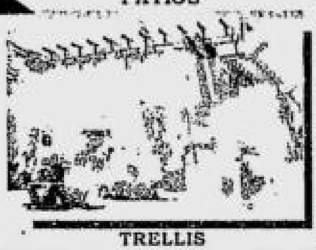

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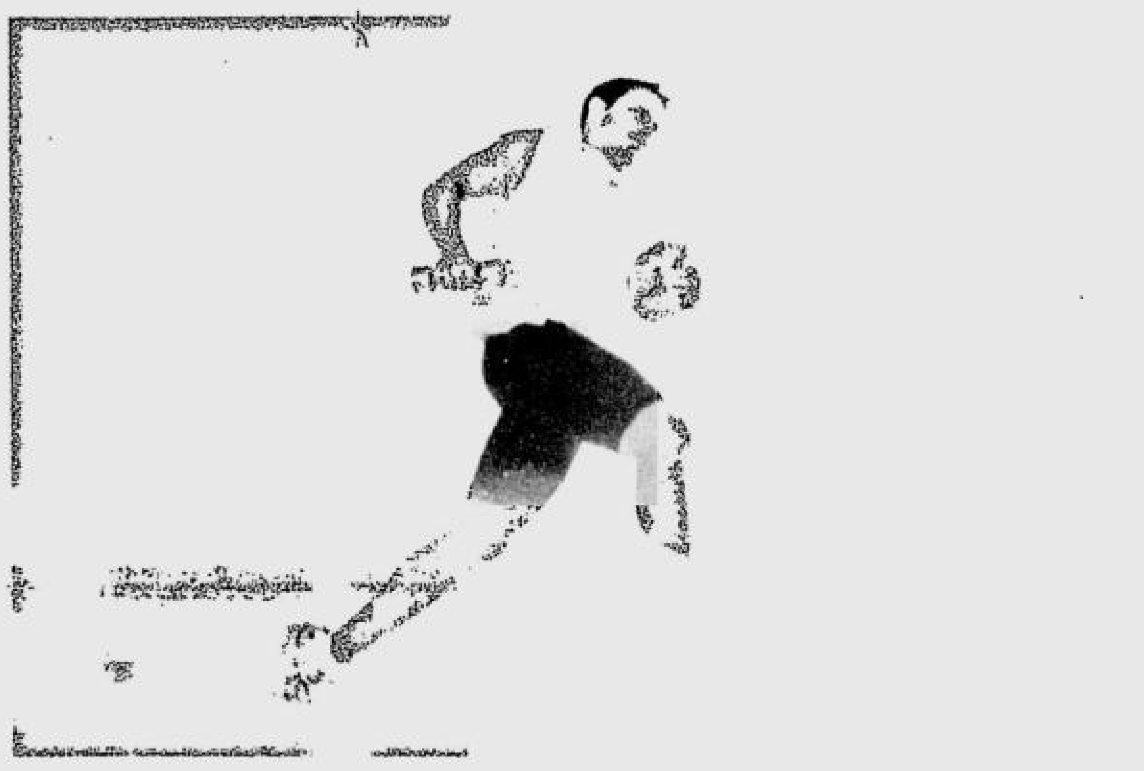

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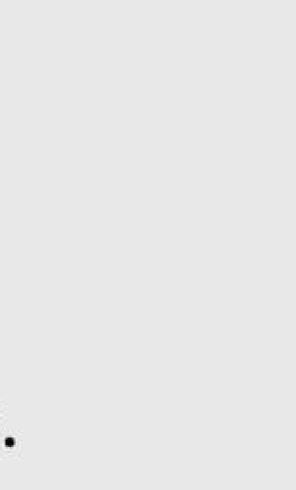

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Tragedy

OF SUCH stuff are tragedies made. The kind where you really do not have anyone to blame but sheer improvidence.

Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin's death was totally unnecessary. A captive of the NPA since November 1999, he was due to be released anytime. Government was in the thick of peace talks with the rebels, and People Power II had made the environment particularly conducive to them. As a goodwill measure, to reciprocate for the release of political prisoners by the government, the NPA had agreed to set Martin free at the soonest time. He was ailing and had been a burden to them for some time. They wanted to be rid of him.

One could quibble and try to lay the blame at several doorsteps. The AFP has, saying the NPA was to blame for his death, having shot him before leaving him to die in a hut in the hinterlands of General Nakar. Which is ridiculous. If the NPA had wanted to kill him, they would not have shot him in the buttocks.

The Left also was saying President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was to blame for Martin's death, having delayed his release by refusing to allow backroom negotiations that would have delivered him posthaste to church groups. Which is also unreasonable, if not ridiculous. No one could have foreseen that a delay of a few days would have cost Martin his life.

Which happened completely by accident. It was the product of a chance encounter between AFP Scout Rangers and the NPA. The Scout Rangers were chasing a band that had raided the coastal town of Bordeos, Quezon Province, when they came upon the NPA lair in Nakar. In the exchange of fire, Martin was wounded. It is not clear by whom, though it is not unlikely to suppose it was by "friendly fire." If his captors had wanted to kill him, they would have left a bullet in his head.

Martin was not critically wounded. He died simply because he could not be airlifted from where he was. He bled to death amid bad weather. It was bad luck compounding bad luck. That was what made it tragic. Nothing could be more poignant than his pleas to be lifted out of there, and 1st Lt. Warren Dagupon, but a few years out of military academy, not being able to do a thing about it. To the end of his days, Dagupon will probably still hear Martin's cries.

It's an utter waste of life, and our hearts go out to Martin's family in their hour of grief. We can only hope tragedies like this do not happen again in the future.

Light

WHICH makes the peace process between the government and the rebels not less but more necessary and compelling. President Macapagal has already ordered a suspension of military operations in 11 Southern Tagalog provinces, and we can only echo Sen. Loren Legarda's sentiments that: "If we had this earlier, Martin's death would not have happened. But the past is past."

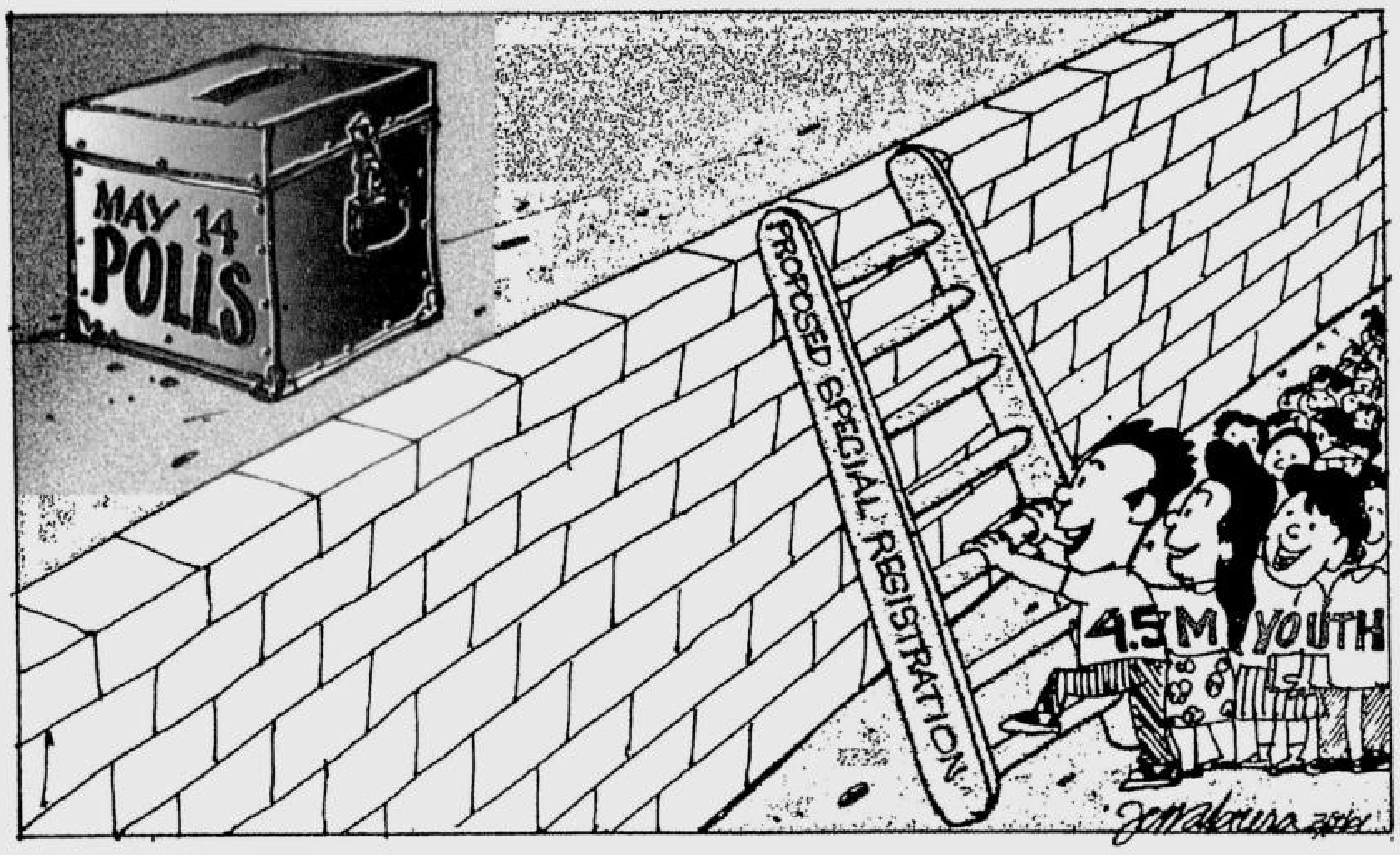
True. We cannot turn back the hands of time and prevent Martin from dying. But we can mark the march of time with progress and prevent others from dying in the same way.

In the end, Martin, by his gratuitous death, should come to symbolize the folly of a war whose meaning or significance has long been buried. While it is easy to sympathize with the reasons for which the NPA continues to bear arms—a good portion of the populace remains powerless and prey to abuse and deprivation—it is not so easy to sympathize with the methods they continue to employ to obtain redress. Not the least of which is abducting people for ransom or for exchange with captive comrades. Calling them prisoners of war does not help.

If anything is more tragic than Martin's death, it is more deaths in a war that has become senseless, or peripheral. Not the least because it is being fought for an ideology that has been pretty much discredited throughout the world and no longer claims any serious following anywhere. And not the least because People Power II had created new possibilities for peace.

We welcome the news that the government and the rebels have agreed to talk peace in April this year in a yet unspecified venue. It won't be an easy one—the peace talks that took place after the first People Power, in late 1986, lasted but a few months. It will take tremendous openness and good faith on both sides, and a willingness to make concessions, for it to succeed. It will be a long road. But the first step has been taken.

Who knows? Maybe the picture of Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin bleeding to death in the forest fastnesses of Nakar, so near to help and yet so far, might inspire them to reach untold heights.



New law not needed for special poll registration

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT is not necessary to have a special session of Congress to pass a law authorizing a special registration of new voters. The Commission on Elections claims it cannot conduct a special registration at this time without a new congressional authorization for the May elections because it would violate the Election Code which bans any such registration 120 days before an election. There are only 62 days before the May 14 elections.

There are so many lawyers in the Comelec, but apparently all of them have overlooked Section 29 of Republic Act 6646, otherwise known as the "Electoral Reform Law of 1987," approved on Jan. 5, 1988, which gives the Comelec ample standby powers on certain pre-election acts to meet any contingency.

"Sec. 29. **Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-Election Acts.** –If it should no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of activities so voters **shall not be deprived of the right of suffrage.**"

This provision has been retained verbatim in Sec. 28 of RA 8436, otherwise known as the "Computerization Law."

This information was provided by no less than a former Comelec chair, Ramon H. Felipe Jr. (1986-88). And he remembers this particular provision because it was he as Comelec chair who requested the bicameral conference committee to insert it in the bill. He wrote a letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo informing her of this provision in RA 6646.

"The 120-day or Dec. 27, 2000 deadline for registration of voters applies only to the continuing or daily registration provided under RA 8189. Otherwise known as the 'Continuing Registration Law,' approved June 19, 1996, which the Comelec negligently failed to publicize before said deadline," wrote Felipe. "However, it did not repeal the regular registration of voters on the 6th and 7th Saturdays before election day provided in the Omnibus Election Code, BP 881, as amended, which fall on March 31 and April 7, 2001. Neither did it repeal the above standby power of the Comelec under Sec. 29, RA 6646. As a matter of fact, it is the very same standby authority invoked by the Comelec in its **Res. No. 3284 prom.** 20 October 2000 advancing the period for nomination of official candidates. Later, under the same authority, the Comelec in its **Res. No. 3306, prom.** 07 November 2000, extended the filing of Certificates of Candidacy from Dec. 15 to 30, 2000 to Jan. 2 to 14, 2001."

Therefore, we cannot understand, said Felipe, "why the Comelec continues to refuse to set immediately a special registration of about 4 to 5 million voters, pursuant to its clear standby authority under the above quoted provision of Sec. 28, RA 6646 and Sec. 28, RA 8436. There is still enough time to do it legally without a time-consuming petition before the Supreme Court or congressional action."

Felipe said that when he was Comelec chair, the poll body successfully held a special registration of voters nationwide on April 11 and 12, 1987 for 1,635,600 new voters, only one month before the May 11, 1987 congressional elections. Whereas as of today, the Comelec still has more than two months before the May 14, 2001 polls.

According to Felipe, "the Comelec does not even have to order the printing of additional voters' affidavits for said special registration, as it has plenty of excess voters' affidavits from past registration of voters. For every registration for local elections, the Comelec invariably ordered about 30 million sets of voters' affidavits, of which only about 20 percent to 30 percent was actually used. As for the per diems for the board of inspectors, (the President) has ordered the release of the necessary funds."

Felipe warned that "any further delay in the holding of a special registration of voters for the coming elections may give rise to the suspicion that the majority of the Comelec (commissioners) who were appointed under the past administration, really intends to disenfranchise the youth group who was at Edsa II. It may also render the coming elections chaotic, even violent."

We are all familiar with the saying that "when there's a will, there's a way." Is the present Comelec now saying that when there's no will, there's no way?

* * *

I am a lifetime member and past president of the National Press Club but I am not in favor of its application to be accredited by the Comelec in a quick count project. It is not only that, in my opinion, the club is not capable of mounting a quick count at this time, with very little time left before the polls and the big media groups like the Philippine Press Institute—which is composed of the big national newspapers—and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, dissociating themselves from the project. I also believe that the NPC, which is only a social club, has no business meddling in the counting of votes. The business of the press is to report the conduct of the elections and the results, not count them itself. Besides, all the members of the press who are true to their calling, will be so busy covering the elections that they would have no time to waste on any quick count.

But my big fear, like any suspicious journalist who loves his club, is that the NPC may be used by some groups for some mischievous, or worse, purpose in the coming elections. Why would the NPC, which can't even pay its own bills and employees, embark on this difficult and expensive project? Could it be that it is being used to block the accreditation of the National Movement for Free Elections? If so, why? A quick count can foil attempts at cheating by groups who have already co-opted unscrupulous elements in the Comelec. Do they think the Namfrel can foil cheating? If that is so, then that somebody intends to cheat.

Besides, the behavior of NPC officers pushing the project arouses suspicion. They say there are sources of funding but refuse to name who these sources are. They say media groups are involved in the project but we just had the denials of the PPI and the KBP. They say that certain groups and individuals are joining the project but we just had the denial of Haydee Yorac that her group, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), is backing the project. And a member of the NPC board said it was misled into approving the project. Very strange, indeed.

Serious

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW Bobby Tañada the other night, and he had some amusing stories to tell about the campaign. He can still remember, he said, when campaigns meant delivering speeches and shaking the hands of voters. Those things are still there, but they've been encroached upon, or pushed back mightily, by singing and dancing. Like a couple of weeks ago, in an out-of-town sortie, he was asked to dance on the stage by Glydel Mercado, who was a guest of the People Power Coalition.

"Did you?"—someone asked incredulously, unable to reconcile herself with the image of Bobby dancing on the stage. "Well," Bobby said, scratching his head, "It would have been embarrassing to have refused. It would have been *bastos*." Spoken like a true gentleman.

"I don't know how to dance," I said with a straight face, "but out of duty, I'd bear the imposition with fortitude. I'd dance with Glydel Mercado—*para sa bayan!*" They all laughed.

But it does illustrate the extent to which campaigns have fallen from, as the late Abe Cruz used to say, the sublime to the paralytic. It illustrates the extent to which elections, or electoral campaigns, have fallen into the clutches of idiotization. I have nothing against singing and dancing. I think Winnie Monsod does the second at least, if not the first—she will probably draw the line at singing—very well. I saw her a couple of times on TV, dancing with rural folk in one of their countryside sorties, and she danced exceedingly gracefully. Quite apart from that, she danced in the context of a community, one Christian and one indigenous, which put much ritualistic value to dancing. Wiggling on the stage for the benefit of the peanut-crunching gallery is another matter entirely.

But is this a case of "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em"? Is this a case of *baduy* or bust?

Not at all. Of course I wouldn't discount the need to make concessions to entertainment, or even cheap thrills. Elections are also to a great extent bread and circus, indeed the rare times—once every three years—they get to be given plentifully to the hungry and the toiling. But concessions are not surrender. I do think there is a way candidates may get the attention—and votes—of the *masa* without having to sink to the level of entertainers or clowns, whichever come first.

I've always thought the mistake was to suppose that not singing and dancing meant making speeches about globalization, poverty and people empowerment. If that is the only alternative, then we should not be surprised that the candidates who win are those who sing and dance. But there is another alternative, and that is talking to the *masa* in the language they understand. That is telling stories, rather than pitching abstract concepts, or better yet listening to the stories of the *masa*. There is another alternative, and that is empathizing with the poor and commiserating with the poor.

I keep seeing in the e-mail all sorts of recommendations about voter education, about how to raise public consciousness to make the voters reject the objectionable and embrace the embraceable. Well, voter education means nothing if it doesn't go hand in hand with candidate education. It's not just the voter who ought to be educated in whom they are voting for, it's the candidates who ought to be educated in whom they are asking votes from. Voter education presumes only the voters may listen and learn. It presumes candidates need not do so.

How wrong that is I saw during the presidential election in 1998. During the presidential debate, with all the presidential aspirants in attendance, a girl from Payatas came out to tell her story. She came from a dirt-poor family, and she scavenged in the mountain of garbage in Payatas daily in the early morning and at night to help bring food to her family's table. In-between scavenging, she went to school, trekking a mile or so to get there. Her teachers were proud of her. She dreamt of being able to work someday, sending her younger brothers and sisters to school, and plucking her family from that place. She did not mind having to work hard to do it, she said, she was used to it.

Asked what they would do for her if they were president, all the presidential candidates talked of the programs they would forthwith unleash to help her and her kind. Those were not bad answers, and some of the programs the candidates thought of seemed especially progressive. But quite incredibly, at least from where I stood, no one among the men and women who proclaimed themselves to have the wisdom to lead the country out of the wilderness had the wisdom to see the wisdom the girl from Payatas had just shown them. Everyone spoke of what they would do for her, no one spoke of what *she* had done for them, or for the nation.

Here was a girl, barely out of childhood, who, amid the greatest adversity, had shown courage, determination and an enormous sense of responsibility, taking upon her frail shoulders part of the burden of rescuing her family from utter destitution. You do not mouth blithe platitudes when confronted by such scale of heroism, you stand in awe before it, preferably with mouth agape.

That is what I mean by listening. That is what I mean by educating oneself in the ways of the *masa*, and not just thinking to educate the *masa* from their ways. That is what I mean by candidate education and not just voter education.

There is an alternative to singing and dancing, and that is taking the *masa* deathly seriously. That does not mean preaching to them, which is what you do when you keep telling them what you are going to do for them if you are elected. They've gotten quite well without you in the past years, they'll get along quite well without you in the next years. That does not mean patronizing them, or humoring them, which is what you do when you sing and dance while silently vowing to forget them and their wretched little lives once the elections are over. The masses are not dumb, they know when they are being taken for a ride.

This country has as much displays of heroism as spectacles of grief, as much displays of grit as spectacles of abjectness. It is just a question of seeing them. It is just a question of hearing them. It is just a question of smelling, tasting and feeling them. Which also means one thing: taking the *masa* seriously is not an attitude you can assume only during elections. It is an attitude you have to cultivate 365 days a year.

But that, after all, is what getting into public service really means. You can't see the public, you won't give the service.

Standby power can make special registration possible

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER COMELEC chair during the Cory years, Ramon Felipe Jr., has joined the hot debate about whether a special registration for the estimated four million youth voters could be done legally or not. Felipe wrote me to say he is "genuinely surprised" why the Comelec continues to insist it can no longer legally conduct this special registration in time for the May 14, 2001 elections, without violating the 120-day deadline for registration set by law prior to the election. Felipe knows whereof he speaks, for during his tenure the Comelec successfully held a two-day special registration of voters nationwide in 1987 for over 1.6 million new voters—just one month before the May 11, 1987 congressional elections. Now the Comelec still has over two months before the elections and it's throwing up its hands already, he rues.

* * *

Felipe says the poll body apparently has overlooked Sec. 29 of RA 6646, the "Electoral Reform Law of 1987," which provides the Comelec chair ample standby power or authority on certain pre-election acts to meet any contingency. Sec. 29 reads: "Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-Election Acts—If it should no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities SO VOTERS SHALL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE (emphasis mine)."

Felipe points out that this provision was retained in RA 8436, the "Computerization Law," and that RA 8189, the "Continuing Registration Law" of June 19, 1996, did not repeal this standby power of the Comelec. As a matter of fact, he says, it is this very same authority that the Comelec invoked in its Resolution 3284 of October 2000, advancing the period for nomination of official candidates, and Resolution 3306 of Nov. 7, 2000, which extended the filing of the certificates of candidacy from Dec. 15-30, 2000 to Jan. 2-14, 2001.

* * *

Debunking the Comelec's arguments, Felipe said it does not have to order the printing of additional voters' affidavits for the special registration as it has tons of excess affidavits from past registrations. He also notes that President Macapagal has assured the availability of funds for this registration effort. Felipe stressed that further delay in registering the youth voters may give rise to the "suspicion" that the majority of the Comelec commissioners, who were appointed by Estrada, "really intend to disfranchise the youth groups who were at Edsa II."

* * *

I had a chance to chat with Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona when he invited me to his talk before the Manila Rotary Club last Thursday. I queried him on how he was getting used to the "trappings of high office" and he confessed that he still cannot get used to having military aides, motorcycle escorts, PSG security and back-up vehicles—which come with the position of being a heartbeat away from the presidency. I'm sure he still can't, for the Jesuit-educated Vice President is one of the most low-key and unassuming people around, whose lifestyle hasn't changed over the many years I've known him. I suppose one reason is that his affluent family has long been used to being in power. His father, Teofisto Sr., was a longtime senator of the Republic and a commissioner in the Commonwealth, while his wife, the former Ruthie de Lara, was the daughter of a longtime Misamis governor.

But the perennial complainers at the DFA shouldn't mistake Guingona's affableness as a sign of weakness; he has been a freedom fighter for a long time, and as a media colleague naughtily points out, his Senate colleagues had discovered to their chagrin that Guingona can outstare any one.

* * *

The Vice President touched on many issues in his talk, but one issue that citizens would be heartened about is his promise to have passports processed within 24 hours. As he pointed out, it is every citizen's right to have a passport when he seeks it, but he notes the long lines at the DFA just to get it, and all too often citizens spend days following up their passport applications. A plan being mulled is to have passports picked up within 24 hours anywhere in the country and brought to Manila. One reservation about this plan, however, is that the passports could be lost in transit and end up with the syndicates handling illegal aliens.

* * *

Guingona also touched on a hot topic every election: the right of overseas Filipinos to absentee voting. The eight million Filipinos abroad are clamoring for this right, which is only just, since they are the ones keeping the economy afloat through various crises. The Vice President stressed that he had filed a bill toward this end in the last session, but it was overtaken by events. There is a lot of resistance especially in the House to this idea of absentee voting—mainly their fear that the DFA personnel could become party to cheating schemes. Guingona said one approach being mulled is to first try out absentee voting in select Filipino communities abroad, to find out how to handle this potential for *dagdag-bawas*.

I think this is a grossly exaggerated fear. Knowing how keenly they want to vote, our Filipino communities doubtless, would organize themselves into mini-Namfrels to watch the results. One way to ensure that results won't be manipulated is to stiffly penalize the erring DFA and Comelec personnel. I think it's more the mechanics that could be problematic. But I insist that if other countries can handle this overseas voting, there is no reason we cannot.

* * *

I have been involved in the case of Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin and Army Maj. Noel Buan ever since Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela personally enlisted my help many months ago in reaching out to the NDF, which had held them hostage for nearly two years. I personally appealed here to my UP classmate Joma Sison on their behalf, and periodically called on the government to declare a Somo in the Southern Tagalog area to ensure their safe deliverance. It is therefore with deep sorrow that I commiserate with Ms Nenita Martin who has had to deal with two cruel blows prior to the death of her husband, including the death of her only child. We can only pray God gives her the strength to bear these tragedies.

* * *

Was it a botched-up rescue operation by the military or a chance encounter? I tend to agree with the Army's Second Division chief, Joe Lachica, who stated that if it were a rescue operation there couldn't be only a tiny squad of 10 men involved. Recriminations are now flying on both sides, but I blame the NPA for taking so long to release Martin and Buan. Prior to the recent declaration of a Somo by Ms Macapagal, the Estrada administration unilaterally declared a Somo to show goodwill, but there was no response from the other side. By now Ms Macapagal has already freed 77 political prisoners, but still no Martin and Buan. I join the nation's clamor for the release of Buan to his long suffering wife Cielo and their only child Janina.

'Padayon'

LETTER FROM MINDANAO

Carolyn O. Arguillas

TO ALL those who asked by text or e-mail, if I had moved over to "imperial" Manila, the answer is: I am still in Mindanao, in Davao City specifically, where the PDI Mindanao Bureau office is located, and I have no desire at all to be uprooted from my place of birth, my family, my friends, my community, my commitments. In short, Mindanao is my life. You take me away from Mindanao, it would be like taking away my life. I was born here, I will die here.

* * *

That dispensed with, what else should I say? That I believe in freedom, I believe in justice, I believe in the protection of human rights. What else? Ahh, that Mindanao has brighter prospects now than under the Estrada administration? That investors and tourists are now coming back to Mindanao? That evacuees displaced by the "all-out war" policy last year of the "Berdugo ng Moro" can now return to their villages and try to rebuild their lives?

* * *

What else? Ahh, that the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would now have higher chances of success but that it is a mistake for government to think the peace talks with the MILF is separate from its still ongoing peace process with the Moro National Liberation Front?

As it is, residents in the 14 provinces and 10 cities (now 15 provinces and 13 cities) under the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development are still in limbo—would they vote in a plebiscite on May 14 whether or not they would be part of the future expanded autonomous region when the law recently passed didn't indicate the date of the plebiscite?

Or would the four provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur—elect a new set of officials?

What is going to happen to Nur Misuari, should the ARMM elections push through as scheduled on March 14? The deadline for filing the certificates of candidacy is long over and even if by some "miracle"—as in 1996—he is allowed to still file a certificate of candidacy, Nur's dismal performance as ARMM governor the last 54 months, is a guarantee he will not win another term.

* * *

It doesn't necessarily follow, though, that Nur should be dispensed with when his long-extended term as ARMM governor ends on June 30, because even the Department of Foreign Affairs of this country, acknowledges he is the lone Filipino who is known by all the heads of state and secretary generals (past and present) of the 56-nation Organization of Islamic Conference. Nur is better off as AmbassaNur, I mean, ambassador or special envoy to the OIC. Nah, let me rephrase that. Special envoy only, NOT ambassador, because I believe in a professionalized DFA, I believe career diplomats should be made ambassadors, not retired generals and other political appointees.

The foreign service officer exam is already very tough, but we're making life tougher for our career diplomats who work their way to the top, only to find the post filled up by political appointees.

This could be the major reason why to this day, after three decades that this country has had to deal with the OIC over the Bangsamoro self-determination issue, we still end up having a major faux pas as what happened in Kuala Lumpur in June last year, when Estrada sent over National Security Adviser Alexander Aguirre as head of the delegation.

Aguirre, schooled in the military and not in diplomacy, failed in that mission to convince the OIC to drop from its intended resolution, the phrases and paragraphs that the Philippine government wanted deleted. By now, the DFA should have had a pool of career diplomats with expertise in dealing with the OIC. They should be the people sent over to deal with the OIC.

* * *

What else? Ahh. That I continue to hope that one day soon—and it's almost Earth Day 2001—a Philippine corporation would finally "adopt" a Philippine Eagle—our national symbol—at the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Malagos, Calinan, Davao City. For isn't it ironic that multinational corporations are more generous than their Philippine counterparts, in trying to save the endangered national symbol from extinction?

The cost of "adopting" an eagle is only P100,000 a year, surely a drop in the bucket as far as the Philippines' top 100 corporations are concerned. But that would go a long way in protecting and preserving our national symbol.

* * *

What else? That I hope the new set of officials by June 30, will really be servants of the people and not of their election campaign financiers? I hope. I really hope.

* * *

And I hope that those who dream of a better Mindanao, a Mindanao of peace, a Mindanao that will not be subjected to wars waged by policymakers in "imperial" Manila, a Mindanao that will have its just share from the national budget, will continue to dream, to dare and to do.

Padayon ug dugang kadasig!

The empress has no clothes

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

TWO arguments have been advanced for a special registration of some 4.5 million newly eligible voters who missed last year's deadline for formally acquiring their right to vote. The first is that many of these 18 year olds did not register because they were not aware of the deadline and were not informed of the implications of non-registration. The second is that they deserve a special registration because of the self-evident participation of the youth in the Edsa II people power overthrow of a corrupt president and the installation into that office of a new, presumably moral one.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo advanced these arguments herself at a press conference last week following student demonstrations excoriating the Comelec for its ineffective campaign to make the deadline widely known. One of her national campaign managers, Sen. Renato Cayetano, put these reasons in a bill that intends to make the special registration possible by amending the Voters Registration Act of 1996, which currently forbids such registrations within 120 days of the election. Even the pro-Erap opposition has supported the move.

But I think the new empress and the old mandarins have no clothes! This is a clear and simple case of pandering to a rich source of votes that may not qualify as a mob, but can easily be turned into a herd for partisan political purposes, the very reason for the 120-day ban.

Now don't get me wrong, I've nothing against enfranchisement. And I would love nothing better than for the People Power Coalition to make a clean sweep of the elections (13-0) and to prevent a stump-studded opposition from getting into the Senate. But I remember detecting a quickly suppressed grin of embarrassment from the President when she was pointedly asked by a newsman at a press conference about the self-serving nature of her proposal. Whereupon she launched, with serious mien, into that paean about how the youth played such a heroic role in getting rid of Erap.

They did, but the Latin term "*non sequitur,*" referring to conclusions illogically drawn from premises, came to mind. I don't see "heroism" listed under voter qualifications in the Constitution. Even if it were, how many of those 4.5 million targets of a self-serving process, which could throw a monkey wrench into the elections, actually were at Edsa II? And even if all that showed up there were 18 year-olds, how shall we distinguish those who did not, out of cowardice, indifference or ignorance? Another thing. She insulted those eighteen year olds who actually were at Edsa II. If they were mature, intelligent, discriminating and heroic enough to stand up to a corrupt sitting president, how in the world could they have been unconscious of having just turned 18 and eligible to vote? Where was her own ardor for voter registration drives when the Comelec was supposedly being remiss in its duties last year and it wasn't clear that Erap would not be the beneficiary?

It gives me the willies that her drama coaches have apparently given her the ability to control hitherto revealing facial expressions and tell-tale gestures, the same talent Erap used to demagoguery's lasting fortune.

No, I don't think the bulk of those 4.5 million youths were heroes at Edsa or even anywhere near it. I think most of them were like most us when we were 18 years old. Careless and carefree. Raging with the hormones that propagate the species. Personally irresponsible and heedless of such adult things as political rights. And likely to vote for candidates of our choice for reasons that got an Erap into power in the first place. Just like millions of 19, 20, 21 and 50 year olds in this country.

And how about the rest of us heroes? If we were to accept the President's reasoning, how should she reward those of us who were not 18 years old but showed up at Edsa? After all, she has been busy rewarding everyone else in her inner circle of supporters. When she convenes a special session of Congress to amend the election code, how about some goodies for the oldies too? How about amending the tax code so that all those office workers and their employers who attended the people power rallies can be rewarded with presidential gratitude? The motorists who walked to Edsa ought to get something. A Malacañang-mandated 50 percent cut in oil prices? And don't forget those nuns and priests who organized everything. Let's pass some laws to subsidize religious orders with taxpayer money. All the better for 13-0.

As for the second argument that the Comelec did not publicize the deadline well enough, I'm not in a position to judge. The whole country could not help but ignore a lot of things going on in the world because we were too busy getting rid of Erap. In any case, the registration drive should not be limited to youth, but should include the poor and illiterate regardless of age, and Mindanao, even if Erap is strong there.

The President has shown that patronage politics, *trapo* politics, is alive and well under her administration. She could have admonished the youth that the exercise of suffrage is a serious personal responsibility, not an entitlement to be spoon-fed to babies. If a young person can be heedless of having become eligible to vote, how qualified could that person be to make the right choices when picking who to vote for and why? The President is sending the wrong signals for self-serving and partisan reasons.

When she has to make tough choices based on principle and the nation's long-term good, as opposed to short-term political gain, will she have the spine to do the right thing? I wonder about her likely treatment of upcoming issues that are as important to the nation as new voter enfranchisement, like peace negotiations, population control and reproductive rights, global competitiveness and food security.

I pray earnestly for her success because her failures will surely be our own.

Nasty political ads

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

STARTING today, print, radio and television media can publish or air political advertisements for the candidates in the May 14 elections. Brace yourself for the deluge of political propaganda.

Through the implementing regulations it issued, the Commission on Elections has ordered that political ads shall be allowed only after seven days have passed from the time the regulations are published in two newspapers of general circulation. The regulations were published last March 3; the publication ban therefore ended yesterday.

Even while the prohibition was in effect, however, the Internet (or cyberspace as the computer techies call it) in the Philippines was filled with e-mail that sought to promote or discredit the bids of some candidates.

The makers or senders of the e-mail did not give a damn about the law's prohibition on premature political ads. They knew the Comelec did not have the capability to monitor their activities, much less catch or prosecute them for the unauthorized activities.

Besides, the media outlets have been doing the same. In the guise of reporting the news, radio and television stations and newspapers have come out with spiels or news items that subtly promote the political aspirations of their favorite candidates.

The e-mail box of this column has not been spared the letters for and against some senatorial and congressional candidates. More than half of the e-mail this column receives daily contains derogatory information or nasty rumors about them.

The contents of the e-mail range from the alleged extortion activities of a popular radio-television commentator to the non-existent Cambridge and Harvard academic records of a senatorial candidate to the questionable credentials of a candidate who is married to a singer-actress.

Demand to publish

Most e-mail senders ask (with a few demanding) that their letters be published in the Letters section of the INQUIRER. Some start with "for your information only" opening statements and end with the request that their letter be published without disclosing their names or addresses.

It is obvious from the way the letters are written that they were prepared by professional writers or public relations practitioners. They try to give the impression of spontaneity or genuine expression of concern, but there is no mistaking it from the way the ideas are arranged and presented that a letter-writing brigade is behind these activities.

The newspaper's "balanced news and fearless views" slogan has been repeatedly invoked to justify the supposed necessity for the letters to be published immediately or, if feasible, made the subject of an investigative report by the newspaper.

One e-mail sender concluded his letter with these words: "if your newspaper refuses to publish this letter it will only prove that your editors and reporters are on the payroll of former President Joseph Estrada." The letter narrated the alleged sex escapades of one of the senatorial candidates of the People Power coalition. Sick.

Mercifully, the "delete" key of my computer works efficiently. Without having to waste time opening my mailbox, a quick look at the summary of the letters received gives me an idea of their content.

When the first sentence shows that the letter has the makings of a poison letter or political ad for a candidate, a quick tap at the "delete" key immediately removes the letter from my screen and clears my mailbox of garbage.

But some senders can be very persistent. They transmit their messages three or four times, perhaps hoping that their stubborn determination will persuade me to read their mail and endorse it to the Letters section editor for publication. If the "delete" key could talk, it would have complained of repeated use.

The e-mail address of the readers' advocate is meant to be the forum for readers who have complaints about the treatment of news and photos. It was not designed to be a conduit for impertinent and undesirable political ads.

To the parties concerned, please do not clutter my mailbox with your trash. There is no way those letters will get to the Letters section or any part of the newspaper.

Erap's side

An e-mail from dmarte@edsamail.com.ph caught my attention for the strong words it used. It read: "Why is JV Ejercito's opinion still in the news today? Even the INQUIRER has him on the front page. (PDI, 3/7/01) Does the opinion of all bastard sons/daughters of all ex-presidents deserve the same treatment?"

I looked at the March 7 issue to verify the reader's statement. Its front page did not carry JV's opinion. That issue was devoted principally to the appointment of Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as the new AFP chief of staff and businessman Danding Cojuangco's failed bid to regain control of United Coconut Planters Bank.

But, yes, the INQUIRER in another issue, published JV's comments on the reported aborted plan of his father to secretly leave the country through the southern backdoor.

When asked for his reaction to the reader's complaint, the managing editor explained that JV's comments were included in the news because they gave the former president's side on the alleged escape attempt. That's plain and simple news.

There is nothing wrong or unusual about JV defending his father; he had been doing that since his father came to power in 1998. Among Estrada's children, both legitimate and illegitimate, JV was the only one who offered to talk about the alleged escape plan.

So what if he is an illegitimate son? His paternity, or whether or not he is a legitimate child, has nothing to do with determining the truth or falsity of reports that Estrada planned to skip the country to avoid prosecution for plunder charges.

The editor stressed that he would not hesitate to publish the statements of Estrada's other illegitimate children if they are willing to go on record with their views about events that affect their father.

On the question of whether the opinion of all bastard sons/daughters of all ex-presidents deserve the same treatment, the editor emphatically replied, "yes, if their opinions are newsworthy and fit to be published."

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Transparency redefined

"Transparency means not ambush interviews but being determined not to have graft and corruption and other venalities in public life."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Mark of a professional

"He is a professional, an officer and a gentleman—there is no question about that."

—Executive Secretary Renato de Villa on AFP Chief Gen. Angelo Reyes' decision to retire from the service

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Better alternatives, moderate choices

WHILE we are glad that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is extending the laurel to rebel groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front, we feel that the whole nation, especially the Muslims, deserves a better alternative. The solution is quite simple: a choice between people of the gun and a group of Muslims who have never held a gun against the government, true as they are to the spirit of peace, unity and ecumenism that Islam upholds. It is a choice that we, the Federation of Muslim Organizations for Genuine Muslim Autonomy, who supported and still support President Macapagal in Edsa II, humbly offer the present administration.

Brandishing their firepower and private armies, warlords and politicos in Muslim Mindanao are keeping the poor, powerless folk cowering in fearful servitude. At the risk of sounding desperate, we beg the present administration not to take these warlords and politicos into its confidence. Instead, it should give the federation a chance to serve the new administration. People are raring to make a new beginning in the Muslim heartland and are willing to stand by the side of peace. Indeed, issues have now polarized into two extremes: continuous war through the MILF, MNLF, Abu Sayyaf, or peace, dialogue and settlement as embodied by the federation. Which one would you choose?

However, the President must choose and act swiftly. She must uproot the political branches of warlords, politicos and opportunists with a few strokes as possible, since the election period is just around the corner, and these power-hungry people will do anything to hang on to their guns, goons and gold for dear life. The government must take a leap of faith and be unfazed by warlords and politicos with private armies, who will definitely wreak havoc in the area the only way they know how—through coercion, intimidation and false promises.

We humbly seek the support of the government in appointing qualified Muslims in key positions in government and in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during the intermediate period of six months before the ARMM elections, to effect a peaceful transition of power in the area. We ask that the government reject all *trapo* leaders who have been associated with the past administration.

We humbly seek government support for candidates recommended in the party of the President and to limit the participation of MNLF's Nur Misuari to the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development as mandated in the treaty while the MILF negotiations are going on.

We seek the overhaul of the autonomous Muslim bureaucracy, saddled as it is with opportunism and corruption, through judicial and legal means.

We seek the suspension of elections in warlord strangleholds where the process is manipulated by arms and goons. The ongoing military operations and lawlessness in the areas justify the suspension.

We seek the government's declaration of general amnesty necessary to rebuild Muslim Mindanao through transparency and honesty in government. Anti-corruption agencies should also be strengthened.—**HASHIM R. ABUBAKAR, secretary general, Federation of Muslim Organizations for Genuine Muslim Autonomy, 507 Unit E. Gonzales Bldg., Edsa, Cubao, QC**

Payatas awaits justice

MORE than 250 lives were lost. About 550 families, or about 2,400 people, have been left homeless. There are still about a thousand bodies missing.

It has been months since the Payatas tragedy shocked the entire nation. How soon could we forget? Is it really that easy to go about our lives again as if the collapse of the 50-foot high mountain of refuse never happened?

We blamed everyone—the government; the rotten system upon which the whole society leans on; the greedy government officials who earn money just by permitting garbage to be dumped there; and even the victims themselves, for being hardheaded and not heeding the government's plea for them to leave the site (they were desperately trying to earn a living out of scavenging).

If only the government lived up to its promise of being really *para sa mahirap* and provided them with decent jobs and more humane conditions of living. If only…

Now we have a new administration. Will things be different now or will it end up pretty much as rotten and as putrid as the stench of decomposing garbage in Payatas?

We hope and pray that soon, those directly responsible for the Payatas tragedy will receive the justice they deserve. We cannot and should not let it go unpunished. The victims and their families cry for justice.—**RHEINARD BENEDICT MAGCAMIT, Loyola Subdivision, Marikina City**

Does SSS have funds for salary loans?

IN REACTION to Isagani Cruz's article, "Losers and gainers" (PDI 2/24/01) on the purchase of shares of the Equitable PCI Bank by the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, the warning of Judge Quitain that for lack of funds these government-owned corporations may not be able to grant its members housing or salary loans, has come true.

From my own personal knowledge, SSS members are having a hard time getting salary loans. Loan applications are repeatedly rejected due to allegedly unpaid previous salary loan balances although these have been fully paid. The SSS also rejects applications because payments have not been encoded or posted yet and therefore do not appear in their computers. I asked the SSS Davao City about this, and I was told that encoding of payments are done in Davao City but posting of the same is done at the SSS central office and it takes a week to finish.

I find the reasons given by the SSS unacceptable. SSS officials seem to be doing everything to hide the truth that there aren't enough funds to cover the loans.—**SYLVIA G. REGANIT, 23 Pink St., Dacoville, Dumoy, Davao City**

Lose some, win some

NEAL H. Cruz connected me again to the Antonio Sanchez rape with homicide and other celebrated cases. ("As I See It," PDI, 3/5/01) For the nth time, I had nothing to do with the Sanchez case, but only his assets statements problem which case I accepted pro bono. Hubert Webb, maybe I took part in less than 3 percent of the entire trial.

I have been a lawyer since the early '60s so I have had my share of setbacks and triumphs. I won my first case even before I became a lawyer. Maybe you should add that President Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Justice Palma and Senator Sotto, have been my clients.

Justice Puno is the *ponente* in the current case. The last case I handled in the Supreme Court was also written by him, where I won last year as counsel for the Bel-Air Village Association Inc. against the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority on the opening of a private subdivision road to public use. It is a leading case. I have just won the spray-painting case in the Court of Appeals; it is now in the Supreme Court. I sued Malacañang in 1998 for dismissing a Customs official and won, as Bel Cunanan once mentioned. I will continue to lose some and win some but my batting average is not bad.

What I am proud of is that I have never made *lakad* any case—maybe this relates to one's track record today—but this does not prevent me from having my share of satisfied clients (and unhappy ones, too). In the current case, the issue is whether the Supreme Court will rule that the Chief Justice erred. The bigger problem is those who the media condemn have no chance. The challenge never ceases to fascinate me, however, as a lover of underdogs and lost causes. At times I even win and I then resist the urge to demand a recount, as it were. In any case, I am very secure, as a good, but not necessarily an "effective," lawyer. I am not that result-oriented. I would be content to be remembered as a fighter, not a winner, the poorer the odds, the better.—**R.A.V. SAGUISAG, 4045 Bigasan St., Palanan, Makati City**

Learning from each other

"THE CARDINAL was very worried. Violence might erupt. There may be casualties on both sides! Dissuade the crowd from going to Mendiola." Those were the exact words of Monsignor Clem when he called me up in the wee hours of Jan. 20, 2001.

The cardinal was very worried. He was not angry. I wasted no time. In a few minutes I contacted Dinky Soliman and the other Kompil II leaders. Within the hour, we were all in a building with Generals Abadia, Aglipay and Razon. The generals were waiting for us to discuss the Mendiola March with them.

As it transpired, Kompil II had to meet separately to discuss the cardinal's plea. Ted Casiño of Bayan stayed with the generals and began to discuss the Mendiola March. Kompil II went to a separate room to discuss the cardinal's appeal.

It was a difficult time. Since Friday evening everyone was already geared up to march to Mendiola. From 12 midnight until the early morning of Jan. 20, Saturday, the program at the Edsa Shrine had been a non-stop pep talk for the Mendiola March. Kompil II leaders respected the cardinal's position, but also respected the autonomy of different groups within Kompil II. It was decided not without disappointment and reluctance to leave each group free to decide whether to go to Mendiola or to stay at the Edsa Shrine.

It was also decided that both the Edsa Shrine and Mendiola were important and crucial in the struggle to oust Erap. It was also decided that I had to speak in behalf of both the cardinal and Kompil II. We were not too happy about the situation but we had to believe in the wisdom of both the cardinal's appeal to stay in the Edsa Shrine and the passion to oust Erap through a march to Mendiola.

Between and within the seemingly opposite options were intense feelings and convictions that were difficult to objectify and clarify with the limitations of time and energy then. Now that People Power II is behind us, it is important to learn its lessons. It is also important to learn from one another. Civil society from the Church and the Church from civil society. Jaime Cardinal Sin wished for a peaceful solution and so did Kompil II. The God of Peace and a People of Peace in a beautiful confluence of events ousted the immoral President. The same God and the same peaceful people do not want us to stop now!—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Gomburza**

Fitting finale

THE IMPRIMATUR of the Supreme Court on the legitimacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of office in its 13-0 decision is a fitting finale in the drama of the Estrada impeachment trial that culminated in People Power II. This historic decision served as a gust of wind that swept away the cloud of suspicion that hovered over the integrity of the Supreme Court due to the perception of a great number of people that it was foot-dragging in a seemingly open-and-shut case. It turned out that the Supreme Court just could not be rushed into arriving at such a monumental decision.

We hope the stage has now been set for the Macapagal administration to pursue with vigor and honesty its pronounced program of government toward providing an ideal climate for business to flourish to its full potential. A business boom can only result in the nation's progress and the well-being of its citizens.—**REYNALDO I. IBAY, 2473 Amatista St., San Andres, Manila**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Taliban: UN talks too late to save ancient statues

KABUL—Afghanistan's ruling Taliban announced they had almost completed destruction of two ancient statues of the Buddha, preempting talks on Sunday with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The report by the Taliban—confirmed by a Western source with firsthand knowledge—came before Annan arrived in neighboring Pakistan on Saturday evening expressing dismay at the Taliban campaign to destroy all statues in Afghanistan.

Annan expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where drought and war have driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in the past year. But he also noted international anger at the destruction of Afghanistan's pre-Islamic heritage.

The UN General Assembly on Friday condemned the Taliban decision to destroy what they see as idols. Standing at Islamabad airport, Annan described as "lamentable" the order by the head of the austere Islamic movement, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

"There is also enormous international concern over the Taliban leadership's decision to destroy historical relics in Afghanistan," Annan said.

In India, where the destruction of the statues threatens to re-ignite Hindu-Muslim conflict, Hindu activists burned an effigy of the country's most prominent Muslim cleric on Wednesday.

Taliban spokesperson Abdul Hayee Mutmaeen told Reuters by telephone from the southern city of Kandahar, the Taliban headquarters, that most of the two historic Buddhas had already been blasted away.

"They have been destroyed up to 80 percent. The work will be completed soon," he said of Afghanistan's most famous archaeological treasure.

The statues, which had towered 53 meters and 38 meters, respectively, were hewn out of sandstone cliffs almost 2,000 years ago. *Reuters*

Protesters block roads, demand Wahid resignation

JAKARTA—About a thousand demonstrators blocked roads in downtown Jakarta Sunday demanding Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid resign for alleged corruption and for failing to halt violence raging in much of the nation.

Carrying banners reading "Wahid game over!" the protesters demanded the head of state step down immediately.

"He is a terrible president. He is corrupt. The economy is in a mess and there is violence everywhere," said demonstrator Gunawan, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

About a dozen police officers watched the rally but did not intervene.

Sunday's protest was just the latest in a long line of anti-government demonstrations lately. Organizers said the demonstration was a dress rehearsal for a far bigger protest planned for Monday.

The loud condemnation is placing added pressure on Wahid, who has steadfastly rejected calls to resign.

The president returned from a 14-day overseas trip last week and vowed to stick to his post despite escalating violence, an economy that foreign analysts warn is on the verge of collapse and diminishing support for his coalition government.

On Saturday, he traveled to Madura Island and told refugees from a bloody ethnic conflict in Central Kalimantan that they may return if things settle down. In recent violence, indigenous Dayak mobs killed almost 500 people.

Many of the victims were beheaded and the Dayaks were successful in their declared campaign to drive the Madurese from their homeland on Borneo island. Nearly all homes and businesses belonging to the settlers were burned.

Despite repeated promises by Dayak warlords that they will kill any Madurese who try to return, Wahid told the Madurese that Dayak people did not hate them and that they should be able to return within a year.

Wahid promised the refugees about $8 million in aid and educational scholarships.

On Thursday, clashes between security forces and Dayak protesters in Central Kalimantan erupted just minutes after Wahid departed following a peace mission. The violence left four people dead. *AP*

PRESIDENT Abdurrahman Wahid in Sampang, Madura Island, after a meeting. REUTERS

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- MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVE
  March 19 – 28 2001 M-W-F 6:00PM–9:00PM
- HOW TO QUALIFY PROSPECTS & HIT THE RIGHT SALES TARGET
  March 17 2001 Saturday 1:00PM–5:00PM
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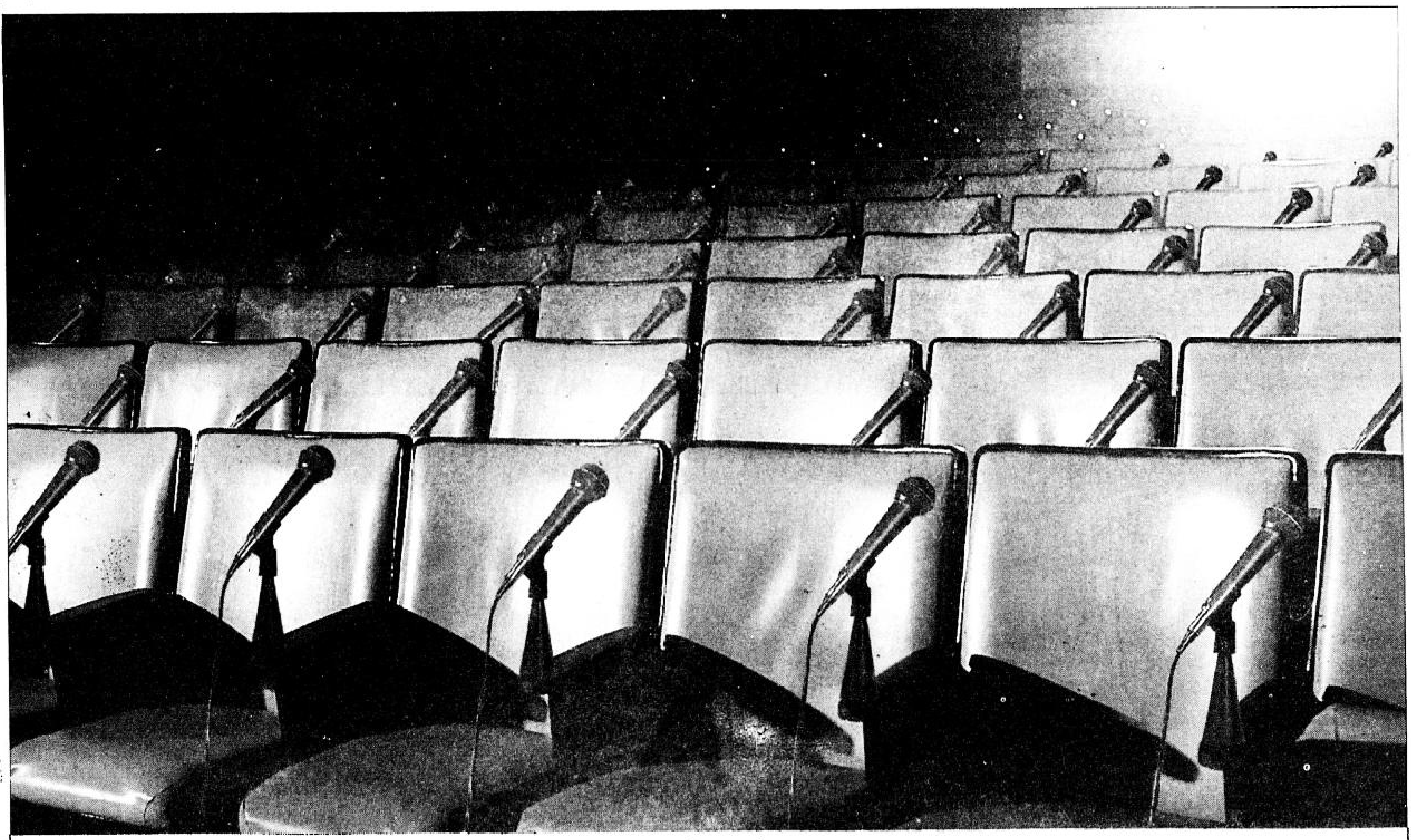

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AMERICAN DREAM REALIZED

Census shows Asian population in US soaring

WASHINGTON—From across the Asian continent, they arrive in the United States seeking a good job, a college education, or simply just a better place to raise a family.

The country's Asian population is soaring, new census figures from at least nine states show. Demographers and civil rights groups attributed the trend in large part to an influx of new immigrants seeking to fulfill "the American dream."

As a result, "there are issues relating to the need of immigrants, like, educational and language-access issues... that will occur in communities that aren't used to dealing with them," said Karen Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium.

The figures show Asians still primarily clustered in and around big cities. Data released for New Jersey—a traditional destination for Asian immigrants—showed as much as a 94 percent gain over the decade Direct comparisons of figures for 1990 and 2000 were impossible, however, because people previously could choose from only five racial categories compared to 63 in the latest census.

In New Jersey, for instance, 480,276 people classified themselves as Asian only, but another 44,080 people identified themselves as Asian and some other race.

New findings from state figures released Friday also showed:

- The Asian population in Pennsylvania could have grown by as much as 83 percent, from 135,784 in 1990 to 248,601 in 2000.
- Indiana's Asian population may have nearly doubled, to 72,839 during the past decade.
- Two states with relatively few Asians still saw growth rates soar: Arkansas, up as much as 110 percent to 25,401; and South Dakota, up as much as 105 percent to 6,009.
- Louisiana had the lowest Asian population growth rate among the five states released Friday, but was still up as much as 60 percent, to 64,350.
- "We are going to see some geographic diversification of the Asian population, outside of their traditional core like California, New York and Washington state," said demographer Jeffrey Passell of the Urban Institute.
- The figures come from the first wave of detailed 2000 census data released to the states, which will be used to remap congressional, state, and local political district lines. The numbers are also used to parcel out over $185 billion in federal dollars among the states. *AP*

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Doctor says Anwar faces great risk of paralysis

KUALA LUMPUR—Jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim faces a greater risk of paralysis or other complications from back surgery he needs if the operation is performed in Malaysia rather than overseas, a visiting Dutch doctor said Sunday.

Facilities at the Kuala Lumpur hospital where the Malaysian government insists that the former deputy prime minister be treated are outdated and the staff untrained for the surgery, said spine specialist Dr. Thomas Hoogland.

The government has denied Anwar's request to travel overseas for treatment on a slipped disc which has kept him bedridden since November.

But officials allowed Dr. Hoogland, from the Alpha Klinik in Munich, Germany, to visit Kuala Lumpur to examine Anwar, view operating theaters and equipment and consult with local doctors to determine the best course of treatment and whether it was available in Malaysia.

After viewing x-rays and consulting Anwar in the hospital room where is kept under guard, Hoogland said local doctors agreed with his assessment that endoscopic surgery was the best treatment.

But the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital was unsuitable, and performing the surgery in the clinic in Germany was preferable.

"An operation on the spine is not a simple thing," Hoogland told a press conference. "We have a special hospital, a special operating room where only spinal surgery is performed. We have the best possibilities in our own situation."

Performing the surgery in Malaysia presented greater risk of complications, even if special equipment and a medical team were flown in from Germany.

"It is very difficult for a cook to cook in a different kitchen," Dr. Hoogland said.

Treating the back injury has become the latest controversy surrounding Anwar, who was fired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in 1998 and is now serving 15 years in prison for corruption and sodomy. Anwar claims he was framed to stop him from challenging his one-time mentor for power. The government denies it.

Anwar believes the injuries stem from the beating inflicted on him by the national police chief the night he was arrested—and blindfolded and handcuffed to a bed—after leading several street demonstrations against Mahathir's long rule. *AP*

Mori signals he will soon resign as PM

TOKYO—Japanese voters expressed relief Sunday, hours after Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori signaled that he would soon resign and bring to an end one of the country's most unpopular administrations in postwar history.

Mori, whose repeated gaffes have pushed popular support ratings below 10 percent, gave a commitment to leave office in a closed-door meeting Saturday night with four ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials.

Under Mori's regime, Japan's fledging economic recovery has shown signs of slowing to a halt. And weeks of political guessing over the leader's future helped send the country's stock market tumbling to a 15-year low.

With such a legacy, many voters welcomed the news of Mori's imminent departure.

"All these problems are Mori's fault," Tsutomu Koide, a 58-year-old company worker, said Sunday. "I'm so glad he's on his way out."

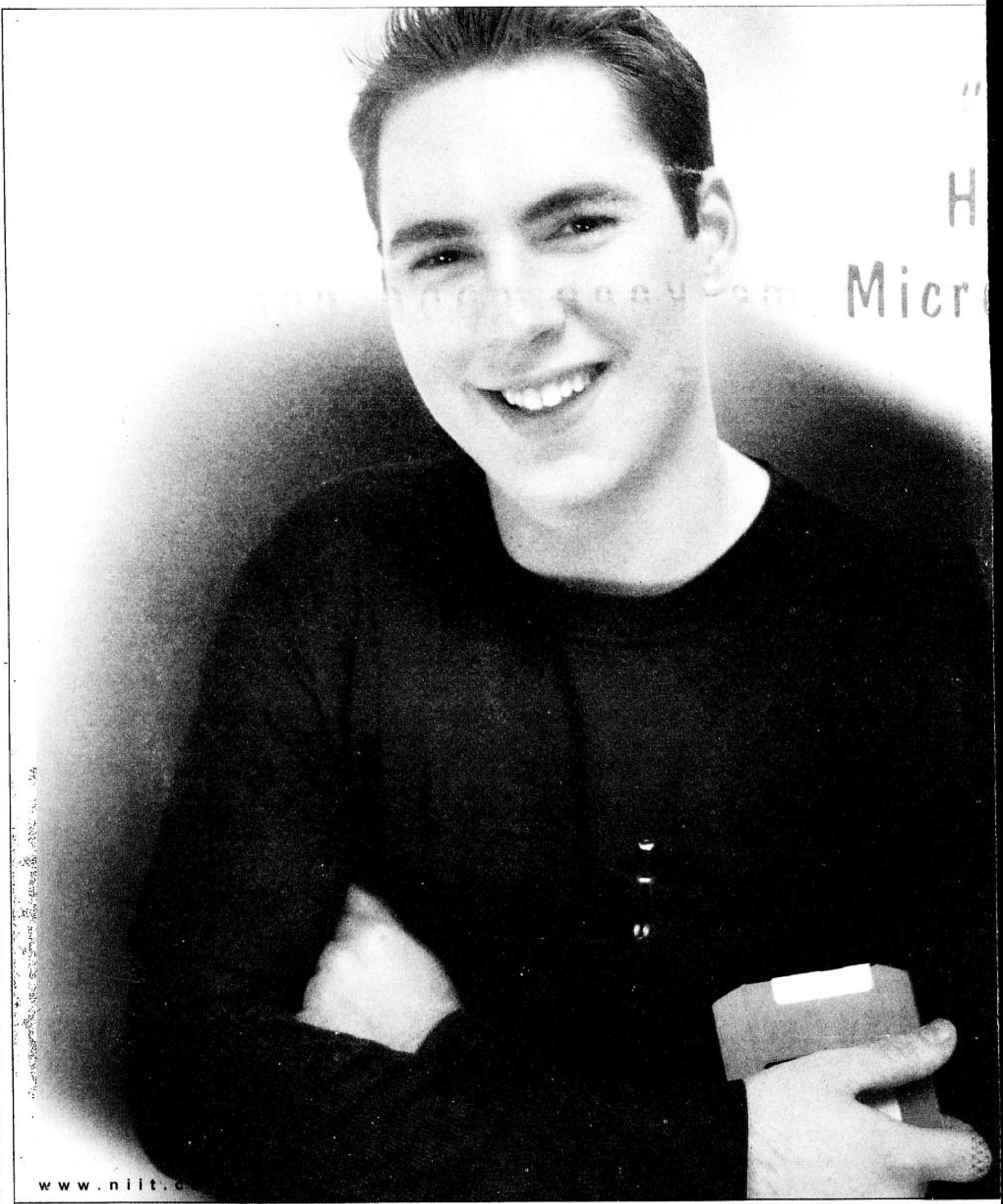
The nationwide Asahi newspaper in a Sunday morning editorial also pegged the blame for Japan's fiscal woes on Mori.

"Mori's lack of vision has contributed to Japan's economic malaise," the newspaper said. "By firming his intention to step down, he has given us hope that things will start moving once again." However, there were lingering concerns.

The Nihon Keizai financial daily noted in a commentary that the new administration will have to wrestle with massive bad debt at financial institutions and carry out important reform in the social security system.

"There are plenty of unresolved economic policy issues to be dealt with," the newspaper said.

Mori was expected to stay in office until early April to give the ruling coalition time to select a replacement and avoid confusion in an upcoming summit with US President George W. Bush. *AP*



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Bomb squad searches jet

MANCHESTER, England—British police evacuated nearly 500 passengers and crew from a Pakistani jumbo Saturday after an alleged Islamic extremist claimed there was a bomb on board.

Police said that four anonymous phone calls were made by a man claiming to belong to an Islamic extremist group.

The plane's 462 passengers and 17 crew members are said to have been kept fully aware of the emergency and were being put up in nearby hotels.

There were no reports of injuries or panic during the evacuation from the Pakistan International Airways Boeing 747.

It was en route from Karachi via Lahore to New York's JFK airport, and had been scheduled to stop in Manchester, northwest England, for refueling.

The plane landed at 9:10 a.m. and was taxied to a safe area away from airport buildings.

A fire service spokesperson said a 600-meter exclusion zone had been put in place and the runway on which the plane was parked had been closed.

"We received a series of calls warning us of a bomb on board set to explode over the Atlantic," a police spokesperson said.

A defense ministry bomb disposal squad was due to enter the plane at 7 p.m. to determine if there was a device on board and possibly defuse it, a sweep expected to take several hours. *AFP*

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ZAPATISTA supporters wait under a banner before a rally in Xochimilco, in the outskirts of Mexico City, March 10. The rebels were welcomed by Mexico President Vicente Fox after a 15-day march to the capital. REUTERS

Fox welcomes rebels to capital

XOCHIMILCO, Mexico—President Vicente Fox gave a warm welcome Saturday to leftist Zapatista rebels as they rallied on the outskirts of Mexico City, and said their visit to the capital implied their entry into the political arena and peace talks.

Fox, who marked his first 100 days in office Saturday, has gracefully weathered harsh criticism from rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos during the Zapatistas' two-week, cross-country bus tour, calling it proof of the new democracy ushered in when he took office Dec. 1.

"Everyone is now free to shout, swear, criticize or praise the president. God bless liberty, God bless democracy," Fox said, greeting with equanimity Marcos' pledge to stay in Mexico City for weeks, and possibly months, until Congress approves an Indian rights bill.

"Welcome Subcomandante Marcos, welcome to the Zapatistas, welcome to the political arena, the arena of discussion of ideas," Fox said in a radio address.

"This is, in fact, the start of a the dialogue that we Mexicans have waited for so anxiously... the dialogue that will lead to peace," Fox said in a weekly radio program, "Fox Live, Fox With You."

Anticipating more accusations from Marcos—who has repeatedly accused Fox of "governing only for the rich"—Fox described his administration, which is heavily loaded with business executives, as "a government of rights, not of the right."

Meanwhile, several thousand Zapatista supporters gathered Saturday at a soccer stadium in the outlying district of

Xochilmilco, site of the city's famous "floating gardens," to hear the Zapatistas speak at a rally there.

Marcos lashed out at a business group, which had criticized him Friday, but did not mention Fox in his speech. *AP*

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UN, Pakistan execs discuss S. Asia peace

ISLAMABAD—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan Sunday opened talks with Pakistani leaders expected to broach the country's tense relations with India and nuclear proliferation in South Asia.

Annan met with President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar and discussed the 53-year-old Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, among other regional issues, officials said.

The UN Chief later began talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar, focussing on issues of "peace and security in South Asia, particularly the situation in the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir," officials said.

"The situation in Afghanistan and other regional and international issues will also come under discussion," they said.

Some 200 Kashmiris staged a peaceful demonstration outside the foreign ministry as the UN secretary general arrived for the meeting, witnesses said.

The protesters called for UN intervention to let Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination and urged India to pull out its forces from the state, they said.

Annan is scheduled to meet with military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf later and urge Pakistan to sign the nuclear non-proliferation Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

He is also expected to discuss with Musharraf the prospects for the restoration of democracy following the 1999 coup.

India, Pakistan and North Korea are the three states which have not signed the CTBT, but whose ratification are required for the treaty to come into force.

Annan arrived here late Saturday at the start of a week-long visit to South Asia that will also take him to Nepal, Bangladesh and India. *AFP*

60,000 mourn slain cop in Basque attack

BILBAO, Spain—Some 60,000 mourners took to the streets to demonstrate against ETA violence late Saturday after attending the funeral of a policeman slain in an attack blamed on the Basque separatist group, police said.

The church in Portugalete, near the northwest Spanish city of Bilbao, proved too small for even the early arrivals for the funeral of the young officer, and thousands flooded onto the surrounding streets.

The 25-year-old police officer, Inaki Tortorika Vega, was killed in a car bomb explosion that also injured his colleague overnight Thursday in the town of Hernani, near the main Basque city of San Sebastian.

Bilbao Bishop Ricardo Blazquez, paying homage to the policeman during the funeral service, described the attack as "radically immoral."

After the service, while family members headed for the graveyard, the protesters marched in silence through the streets of Portugalete behind a banner reading "For Freedom and Peace. ETA No."

Representatives of Spain's mainstream political parties took part in the protest, with the exception of the Basque nationalist Euskal Herritarok (EH) party, which is linked to ETA.

Interior Minister Mariano Rajoy, of the ruling Popular Party (PP), and Carlos Iturgaiz, PP chair in the Basque country, were, however greeted by a barrage of boos and whistles from a section of the crowd. A similar welcome was also accorded members of the civil guard.

On Saturday, the municipal council of Portugalete approved a text condemning the attack. The motion was opposed by the three EH members of the council. Spanish police arrested three people shortly after the blast. *AFP*

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF MILITANTS?

Debate rages over Palestinian bombers

JERUSALEM—First, mobs of young Palestinian stone-throwers took to the streets. Then bands of gunmen emerged. Now the biggest threat to Israelis are shadowy Palestinian bombers.

As the Palestinian uprising evolves, and its attacks grow more sophisticated, a fierce debate is raging about whether Palestinian leaders, including Yasser Arafat, are guiding the militants.

Israel holds Arafat responsible, saying he has consistently encouraged attacks with his calls for the confrontation to continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem.

The former guerrilla leader, who made one public appearance wearing a sidearm, has refused to urge an end to attacks, despite promises to do so.

For months, government-controlled Palestinian TV has broadcast nonstop scenes of Palestinians wounded and killed by Israeli armed forces, often accompanied by patriotic songs praising the dead as martyrs.

The Palestinians portray the uprising as a universally popular movement that can't be switched on or off, even by Arafat. They argue that Israeli troops with quick trigger fingers are responsible for the vast majority of deaths during more than five months of fighting, which has claimed the lives of 347 Palestinians, 57 Israeli Jews, and 19 others.

With Ariel Sharon now Israel's prime minister, the debate is particularly relevant.

Sharon says he won't reopen negotiations until calm is restored, and the Israelis believe it is in Arafat's power to curb the militants.

"Arafat controls the situation and the strategy," said Israeli Amy spokesperson Gen. Ron Kitrey.

At minimum, the Amy wants Arafat to arrest militants, many with bomb-making expertise, who were freed from Palestinian jails in October. Israel also insists he rein in the Tanzim, a militia allied with his Fatah movement and frequently involved in shootings.

From the Israeli perspective, Arafat sets the overall tone, though he's not in charge of specific actions, which are carried out by a range of Palestinian groups.

The Tanzim is believed to be a leading source of Palestinian gunfire, including roadside ambushes, while the radical Islamic movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad have claimed responsibility for major bombings.

The Israelis have also complained about Palestinian incitement. Palestinian TV has on occasion featured Muslim clerics calling for attacks on Jews. Newspapers controlled by Arafat's Palestinian Authority have encouraged confrontation with Israeli troops.

Palestinians insist Arafat, 71, remains in charge politically, but they refuse to talk in detail about the attacks. Palestinian resistance will continue, they say, until Israel lifts the tough security measures, including the effective quarantine imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to keep the violence outside Israel's borders. *AP*

A PALESTINIAN gunman points his gun at an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a demonstration in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, March 10. REUTERS

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Bush urges Senate to act on his tax cut proposal

CRAWFORD, Texas—With victory in the House of Representatives in hand, President George W. Bush on Saturday urged the Senate to act quickly on his sweeping tax cut proposal as the first whiffs of compromise emerged.

Beginning a two-day break at his central Texas ranch, Bush used his weekly radio address to thank the House for making "a good start" by approving the biggest part of his $1.6 trillion, tax package—a $958 billion across-the-board reduction.

He singled out the 10 Democrats who broke ranks to cross party lines in the 230-198 vote, although with the emphasis Bush has placed on bipartisanship since taking office on Jan. 20, he might have hoped for more.

The outcome in the Republican-controlled House was never in doubt. In the Senate, which is evenly divided between the parties, his tax package faces an uncertain fate and Bush hinted he might have to strike a deal.

"I understand how the process works," he told the Washington Post. "People are sending messages to the White House in a variety of ways and I'm listening."

Noting the Senate vote was "a little ways down the road," Bush's spokesperson Fleischer told reporters the president was going "to fight for the tax plan that passed the House."

"The president believes things are going in the right direction and that his tax plan is the best plan to help keep the economy strong and give people the tax relief they need," Fleischer said.

Republican sources in Washington said Bush might be willing to consider a smaller tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, a move that could help blunt the sharpest Democratic opposition.

Under the current 10-year plan, the 39.6-percent tax rate would drop to 33 percent. The sources said Bush might be open to lowering it to 35 percent instead, but would not abandon altogether a cut in the top tax rate.

"The president is wedded to the principle of an across-the-board tax cut," one source said. In the campaign and on his travels around the country since his inauguration, Bush has rejected targeted tax cuts as "class warfare." *Reuters*

Surgeon says Diana could have been saved

LONDON—A leading heart surgeon has said that Britain's Princess Diana could have been saved if she had been rushed to hospital quicker.

Christiaan Barnard, who was a friend of the Princess of Wales, writes in a new book that she could have been saved if she had reached hospital within 10 minutes of the 1997 high-speed car crash in Paris, the Sunday Telegraph said.

"My opinion is that they made a mistake not rushing her to hospital quicker because her bleeding could only be stopped by surgery," said pioneering surgeon Barnard in his book "50 Ways To A Healthy Heart," which is to be published in May.

"I understand they spent up to an hour at the scene of the accident," he said.

Barnard, based in South Africa, said according to the autopsy Diana died of internal bleeding as the result of injury to the pulmonary vein. He said such an injury would not lead to rapid loss of blood.

"What I want to say here is, that, if Princess Diana had been brought to hospital within 10 minutes of the accident—something which should easily have been possible—and once there, had been cared for properly, she could have survived."

Diana's companion Dodi Al Fayed and their driver Henri Paul also died in the crash. Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones survived.

The Telegraph quoted a French doctor, who arrived quickly on the scene as he had been traveling in the opposite direction at the time of the crash, as saying Diana was in the best shape of the four.

Frederic Maillez said Diana had "looked pretty fine...I thought this woman had a chance."

An official French inquiry found that the accident was the result of "loss of control," the speed of the vehicle and alcohol. *Reuters*

COMUNICADO A LA NACION

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, ante noticias falsas publicadas por el diario EL PANAMA AMERICA en su edición del día 7 de marzo de 2001, consideran necesario hacer las suguientes aclaraciones:

1. Como parte del normal proceso de control y verificación de las operaciones de los Consulados de Marina Mercante, del 9 al 17 17 de febrero de 2001, el Director de Auditoria Interna y el Director de Gente de Mar de la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, viajaron a Manila, Filipinas en donde realizarion un audito y revisión de todas las operaciones relacionadas con la expedición de permisos de marinos realizadas por ese consulado, sin encontrar elemento alguno que acreditara acciones irregulares por parte del Cónsul o su personal.

2. La señora GRACE VALENCIA CASTRO es una ciudadana filipina, que laboró en el consulado de Panamá en Manila, hasta abril del año 2000 y que se ha dedicado a remitir a los medios de comunicación, informes falsos y tendenciosos en contra del consulado Panameño en Manila, siendo la mayor parte de dichas afirmaciones descartadas por la prensa luego de una elemental verificación con la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá o el propio consulado.

3. Entre los mecanismos usados por la señora Grace Valencia Castro, está el haberse hecho pasar por vocera del la UNITED FILIPINO SEAFARERS, importante gremio de marinos de las Filipinas, que mediante nota formal ha desmentido la existencia de tal vinculación.

4. PANAMANIAN MARITIME SERVICES INC. es, como muchas otras, una empresa que se dedica a realizar diversos trámites ante las autoridades consulares, en representación de personas naturales y empresas dedicadas a la actividad marítima. Esta empresa no tiene mayor relación con el Consulado de Panamá en Manila que la de cualquier usuario, ni expide licencias de marinos, lo que exclusivamente hace el Cónsul de manera temporal y la propia Autoridad Marítima de manera definitiva y previo pago de las tasas debidamente aprobadas por su junta directiva.

5. El señor Adrián Quiroz no tiene vinculación alguna con el gobierno nacional desde su destitución del cargo de Director de la Oficina regional de la A.P.M. en Manila en diciembre de 1999.

6. Los señores Pedro Morales, Erlinda Capati, Sylvia Manual, Donna Gaanan, Leonardo Chavez, Patrick Verdeflor, Divina Pardo y Carl Elmido, son funcionarios del Consulado y entre sus fundiones están las de dar trámitea las diversas peticiones y solicitudes que tiene que ver con la actividad marítima así como demás trámites consulares.

7. EL PANAMA AMERICA, ha acogido esta y anteriores comunicaciones de la susodicha GRACE VALENCIA CASTRO sin realizar la mas mínima verificación ni consulta acerca de su autenticidad ni con la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, ni con el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, lo que a todas luces evidencia una falla gravísima a la objectividad e imparcialidad que debe acompañar a la función periodística.

8. En atención a lo anterior, tanto el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores como la Autoridad Marítima de Panamá, rechazan de manera enérgica la noticia, en el convencimiento que la misma únicamente pretende afectar la imagen del Gobierno Nacional.

Panamá, 7 de Marzo de 2001

Harmodio Arias-Cerjak
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores (a.i.)

Jerry Salazar
Administrador de la Autoridad
Marítima de Panamá

AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE NATION

The Ministry of Foreign of Foreign Affairs and the Panama Maritime Authority, facing these false news published by the newspaper EL PANAMA AMERICA in its edition of March 7, 2001, considered necessary to do the following clarifications:

1. As part of the normal procedure of control and verification of the operations of the Consulate of Marine Merchant, from February 9 to 17, 2001, the Director of Internal Audit and the Director of Seafarers of the Panama Maritime Authority, traveled to Manila, Philippines wherein they made an audit and revised all operations related to the issuance of permits for seamen, processed in that Consulate, without finding any element that would accredit any irregularities on the part of the Consul or his personnel.

2. Mrs. Grace Valencia Castro, is a Filipino citizen, who worked in the Consulate of Panama in Manila until April of 2000 and she dedicated herself to send false and tendentious information against the Panamanian Consulate in Manila through different means of communication, wherein majority of the said statement was rejected by the press after a verification with the Panama Maritime Authority or the Consulate itself.

3. Among the mechanism used by Mrs. Grace Valencia Castro, she was made the spokesperson of the UNITED FILIPINO SEAFARERS, an important union of Filipino seamen, which by means of a formal note denied the existence of such link.

4. PANAMANIAN MARITIME SERVICES INC., is like many others, a company which dedicates to make various transactions before the Consular authorities, the representation of natural people and companies dedicated to maritime activities. This company does not have any relationship to the Consulate of Panama in Manila like any other clients, they do not issue licenses for seamen, which the Consul temporarily does and the Maritime Authority itself do in a definitive manner and the payment of the taxes approved by its board of directors.

5. Mr. Adrian Quiroz does not have any connection with the National Government since his dismissal of post as Director of Panama Maritime Authority's Regional Office in Manila last December 1999.

6. Mr. Pedro Morales, Erlinda Capati, Sylvia Manuel, Donna Gaanan, Leonardo de Chavez, Patrick Verdeflor, Divina Pardo, and Carl Elmido are employees of the Consulate and among their duties is to process different requests and solicitations that deals with maritime activities as well as the rest of the consular matters.

7. The Panama America, welcomed this and previous information from the said Grace Valencia Castro without making the minimum verification and consultation regarding its authenticity with the Panama Maritime Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wherein all evidences show a serious fault to the objectivity and impartiality on the part of the journalist.

8. In line with this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Panama Maritime Authority insistently reject the news with the conviction to affect the image of the National Government.

Panama, March 7, 2001

(Signature appears here)
Harmodio Arias Cerjak
Minister of Foreign Affairs (a.i.)

(Signature appears here)
Jerry Salazar
Administrator of the Panama
Maritime Authority

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Rebels exact 'pass fees' from politicos

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The armed wings of rebel groups in Central Luzon are exacting "pass fees" from national and local candidates wooing voters in supposedly communist guerrilla bailiwicks in the region, police officials said Friday.

The New People's Army, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has fixed a P250,000 fee for senatorial bets and P200,000 for both congressional and gubernatorial candidates, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police director, told reporters here.

Campaign fees by the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the armed wing of the CPP's rival Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, are half the amount pegged by the NPA, according to Senior Supt. Paul Mascariñas, Central Luzon police intelligence chief.

Contenders for the mayoral, vice mayoral and municipal board seats are asked to pay P50,000, P30,000 and P10,000, respectively.

However, the two rebel groups, in separate interviews by the INQUIRER, de

REBELS / p.17

PMA cadet dies in hazing; 4 suspects held

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A fourth class cadet died at a hospital here late Saturday night after he was hazed allegedly by four upper class cadets.

Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo, 23, a native of Camiling, Tarlac, suffered from cardio-respiratory arrest due to blows he received in the lower part of the rib cage.

He was taken to the Fort del Pilar Station Hospital around 11 p.m., but efforts to revive him failed.

Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, immediately ordered the arrest and detention of four upper class cadets suspected to be involved in the hazing.

They were identified as Cadets Third Class John Louie Ong, Michael Perang, Willard Aperocho and Omar Julius Labajo.

DOMINGO

The four were detained at the PMA military police stockade.

Carranza also reported the incident to the Baguio police to ensure an expeditious and impartial investigation of the case, the third fatal hazing incident in the 101-year-old academy.

Domingo was among the cadets who honored outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, during the latter's farewell visit here Saturday morning.

Eleven hours later, he would be dead, a victim of what his tactical officer termed a "macho celebration."

The officer, Maj. Jose Cenabre, said Domingo, a member of PMA Class 2004, was beaten by upper class cadets when he learned that he passed all his academic subjects. Two of his attackers were his former classmates.

Domingo originally belonged to PMA Class 2003 but was turned back after he failed in some subjects.

The victim's mother, Leoning, said her son got a very high grade and some of his classmates were probably jealous of him.

"My son was very happy he got high grades in his exam. But while they were celebrating, some of his classmates beat him up maybe because they were jealous," the mother told the INQUIRER in Filipino at the St. Ignatius Church here, where Domingo lies.

Domingo is the eldest of five children of Sergio and Leoning Domingo. Sergio, an Army soldier, died two days after his son took the PMA entrance examination in 1998.

PMA CADET/ p.16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread over Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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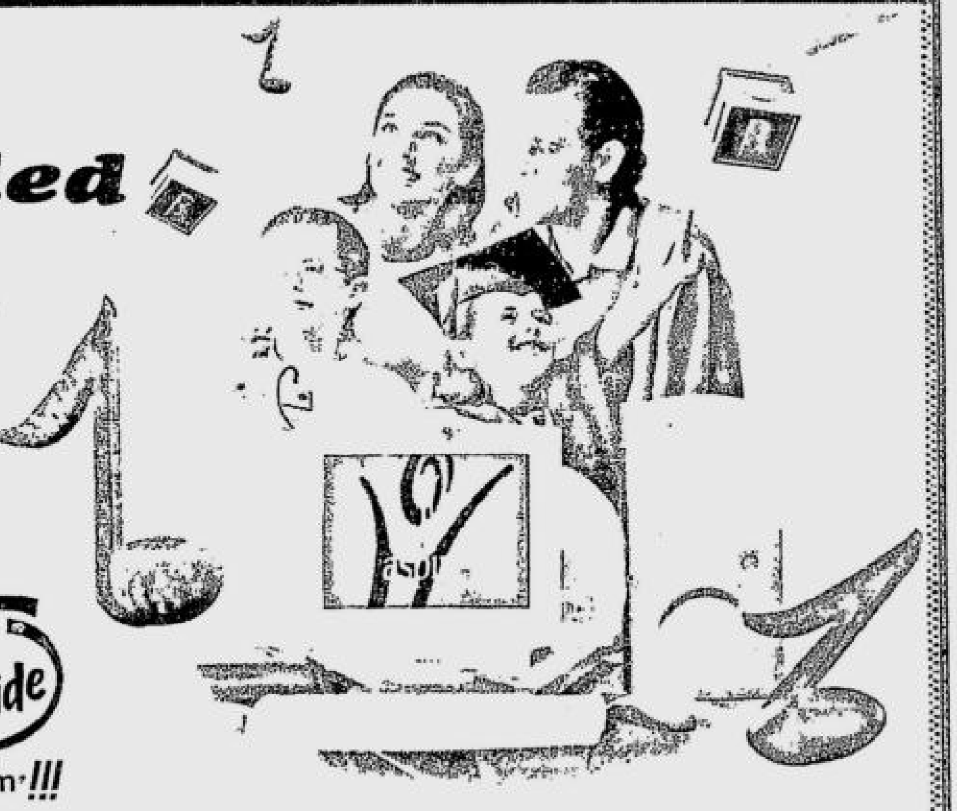

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ROUNDUP

Journalists running

CALAPAN CITY—Eight members of the local media are among 476 aspirants for various elective positions in Oriental Mindoro. These are reelectionist board member Susan Fanoga, Pinamalayan councilor Vicente Castillo and Calapan Councilor Roy Orense. Fanoga and Orense are broadcasters while Castillo founded the tabloid Mindoro Weekly Reporter. Jake Ramirez, editor of Filipino Media Update, Romeo Sadiwa and Floro Salcedo, both correspondents of national and local tabloids are running for councilors of Calapan and Gloria town. Honrado Vega, a radio station manager, and Agustin Mantaring, editor of Mindoro Weekly Reporter, are running for provincial board members in the first and second districts. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Aid to coops

CALAPAN CITY—Mayor Arnan Panaligan has approved the release of P250,000 as financial aid to five cooperatives in this city. The beneficiaries are the Calapan Labor Service Development Cooperative, Kasimbayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Calapan Vendors Multi-Purpose Cooperative, PCC Employees Credit Cooperative, Calapan Furniture Makers Cooperative and the Personas Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Panaligan said the money came from the Local Development Fund of the city government. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Shabu trader escapes

TAAL, Batangas—Police are scouring possible hiding places of the most wanted illegal drug trader in Batangas after he escaped from authorities a few days ago. Senior Supt. Florante Baguio, Batangas police director, said the suspect, Dionisio Yedra, alias Jun, of Barangay Halang, here, escaped shortly after his Mitsubishi van loaded with two kilos of shabu worth P3.6 million was intercepted along the national highway in Barangay Mahabang Lodlod, Taal. Baguio said Yedra was still in handcuffs when he ran away from the checkpoint manned by a team headed by SPO4 Raul Hernandez of the Taal police. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Priest killed

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—A priest was killed after his car collided with a bus along the national highway in Barangay Caparia-an here early Friday. Police said Fr. Rey Pascua, 35, succumbed to head and leg injuries when his Toyota Corolla was hit by the south-bound Fariñas Trans bus. Pascua was the assistant finance secretary of the Archbishop of Nueva Segovia based in the City of Vigan. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Aircraft upgrading

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Air Force's aircraft fleet will be upgraded following the release of at least P1.2 billion under the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization program, said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, PAF commanding general. Defensor, who was at the Philippine Military Academy here last week, said the PAF would upgrade 46 aircraft within five years, starting this year. He said the upgraded aircraft would be mainly used in disaster response and rescue and internal security operations. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cop shot dead

CANDON, Ilocos Sur—A policeman was shot and killed in front of his wife and their 2-year-old son here on Sunday. Police said P03 Baltazar de Peralta, 42, was bathing his son outside their house in Barangay Tablac when armed men, believed to be communist rebels, shot and killed him. Recovered from the scene were 11 empty shells of a .45 cal. pistol. Investigators said New People's Army members could have attacked Peralta for helping Army soldiers in their operations against the rebels in the province. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 towns under watch

LAOAG CITY—Three towns have been placed under the watch list of the Commission on Elections in Ilocos Norte because intense political rivalry is expected to occur in these areas. Lawyer Noli Pipo, provincial elections supervisor, cited reports of violations of election laws already being committed in Paoay, Currimao and Nueva Era. *Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

NPC still dominant in Benguet

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) is still the dominant party in Benguet as shown by the number of incumbent mayors running under the party, an erstwhile partner of ousted President Joseph Estrada's Lapian ng Masang Pilipino.

Most races in Benguet pit NPC candidates against those of Lakas. The contest is a reflection of the political struggle between Gov. Raul Molintas (NPC) and Rep. Ronald Cosalan, formerly of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and now with Lakas-NUCD.

Molintas was first thought to challenge Cosalan for the lone congressional district of Benguet but decided to finish his last term.

He will meet Vice Gov. Robert Tinda-an (Lakas) and Agapito Bolislis (independent), a former lawyer of Lepanto Mining Co., in the gubernatorial race, while Cosalan will renew his rivalry with Samuel Dangwa of the Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa in the congressional race.

In this capital town, reelectionist Mayor Nestor Fongwan (NPC) will fight Vice Mayor John Botiwey (Lakas). In Kapangan, Rogelio Leon (NPC) will run unopposed.

Magdalena Pitas (NPC) will meet Bony Tacio (Lakas) for Sablan mayor. In Bakun, it will be incumbent Mayor Belino Suni-en (NPC) against Bartolome Sacla (Lakas).

In Tuba, Mayor Jose Baluda (NPC) will face Fernando Aritao (Lakas), while in Kabayan, Ernesto Matuday (NPC) will fight Morris Lamirez of Lakas in the mayoral race.

In Bokod, Mauricio Macay (NPC) will meet two independents, Raymundo Celino and Patenio Suanding.

In Kibungan, Albert Mayamnes (NPC-independent) will fight Agnawa Contada (NPC), Murphy Bayas (independent) and Benito Siadto (Lakas).

In the mining town of Itogon, former Mayor Alfonso Fianza (independent), Mario Godio (NPC) and Francisco Golingab (Lakas) will fight for the post vacated by outgoing Mayor Cresencio Pacalso.

'Jueteng'

In Nueva Vizcaya, reelectionist Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani said he would withdraw from the gubernatorial race should Catholic Church officials in the province prove that he had received money from "jueteng" lords.

"If they can prove that I am 'Palmolive,' I will not run for governor," said Agbayani.

'Palmolive' was the alleged codename of Agbayani on the jueteng *payola* list that Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong and Quirino acquired from a former jueteng worker in Bayombong last month.

Agbayani's reaction was triggered by a television report that tackled jueteng in the province.

DOMOGAN

COSALAN

Among the sources interviewed in the report was Villena.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get Villena's reactions on Monday. A diocesan staffer said the bishop was not feeling well.

Agbayani broke into tears during the flag ceremony on Monday attended by more than 1,000 provincial employees, as he asked the crowd to allow him to clear his name.

Agbayani, who is running on his last term as governor, would face Larry Palafox, a hog raiser running under the Liberal Party, in the gubernatorial race.

Women

In Pangasinan, no woman has filed her candidacy for governor, vice governor or representative of any of the six districts in the province.

Of the 32 who filed for the 12-seat provincial board, only two are women—a reelectionist and a former three-term board member.

For mayoral candidates, at least seven women are running in 45 towns and three cities of Pangasinan. At least 165 women filed their candidacies for councilor. However, the figure is small compared with the more than 1,000 men seeking council seats in Pangasinan.

In Ilocos Sur, Board Member Efren Rafanan Sr. defied his political godfather, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, when he decided to run for governor against Singson's candidate, Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano.

Rafanan substituted his staff member, Romeo Hidalgo, as the gubernatorial candidate of the Rizalist Party.

"It is the biggest decision of my life. I am offering myself as an alternative candidate," Rafanan said, adding that he could not ignore the clamor of his supporters for him to run for governor.

He said he talked with Singson before he decided to run for governor. He said he still has the high respect for Singson and vowed not to abandon the outgoing governor.

But Singson was apparently not happy with Rafanan's move.

"He (Rafanan) should not have done it. *Lumaki na ang ulo niya* (He has become overconfident)," Singson said in a radio interview.

Other aspirants in Ilocos Sur's top elective post are lawyer Benjamin Baterina, younger brother of Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, and Roque Sison, younger brother of Jose Ma. Sison, Communist Party of the Philippines. founding chair. ***Reports from Frank Cimatu, Ben Moses Ebreo, Yolanda Fuertes and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Election violence seen in Masbate

MASBATE CITY—The Commission on Elections is under mounting pressure to place the province of Masbate under its control due to the presence of private armed goons and intense political rivalries.

Comelec provincial supervisor Mohamad Hassan said he was deeply concerned about the outcome of the elections in Masbate.

"It's not a remote possibility that terrorism might reign here," Hassan told several Legazpi City-based reporters who were on the island on Friday to monitor activities in the province.

Hassan said he was being pressured by some municipal election registrars working under him to declare the island-province under Comelec control in order to avert any sporadic outbreak of violence.

A local Comelec official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said candidates had been stocking up their arsenal with high-caliber firearms and had been hiring bodyguards, some of them former soldiers and policeman.

On Feb. 13, the Comelec, in an en banc meeting, issued Resolution No. 3618 stating that it would put under its control an area where terrorism, fraud and other election irregularities in past electoral exercises had been widely committed.

Under these circumstances, the poll body shall supervise and control administrative activities and transactions made by local governments in strict compliance with the election bans.

The Comelec can also substitute a whole police unit in a locality with a military unit, revoke the exemptions to the gun ban that were granted to candidates and their bodyguards, and augment peacekeeping forces with policemen and military troops.

Intense political rivalries between the Espinosas, now led by Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa, and their opponents led by Gov. Antonio Kho had turned Masbate into a tinderbox in past elections.

The elections had been marred by assassinations by roving bands of heavily armed goons, and incidents of ballot box snatching and vote buying.

Hassan confirmed earlier reports that up to 80 percent of the villages in Masbate were being considered "hot spots." Recent military reports listed 121 barangays as possible hot spots.

Following this disclosure, Comelec regional director Zacarias Zaragoza ordered Bicol police director, Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., to conduct a region-wide campaign against loose firearms by establishing checkpoints.

Masbate City Mayor Juan Sanchez told reporters that he had been forced by recent violent incidents not to run for governor. He is instead running for a "less sensitive" post as a member of the provincial board.

Sanchez said three of his close supporters have been killed since he announced last month his intention to run for governor.

"Amo ina an Masbate City. Makahudluk pag igwa nin election (This is Masbate City. It's frightening when there is an election)," he stressed. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Some politicos have turned religious, says bishop

DIGOS CITY—The May 14 elections have made several politicians extraordinarily religious, Bishop Generoso Camiña of the Diocese of Digos said.

Although, Camiña would not identify those who suddenly became "godly," he said it was obvious because they were only going to churches to boost their candidacy.

"These politicians would prefer to be at the end of the line during communion, obviously to catch more attention," the prelate said.

There are also those who seldom go to him in the past but suddenly found time to seek his blessing as the election draws near.

"I could not deny their request for blessing because that is my duty," Camiña said.

Reports also indicated that aside from going to Mass in Catholic churches, some politicians also attend religious services in other churches.

"We could not turn them away because in the first place, they come to our church to attend the services," a pastor who requested anonymity said.

But the pastor said God would punish those who pretend to be believers in order to advance their own interests.

Camiña cited other reports reaching him that aside from becoming suspiciously religious, some politicians have found time to care for the poor.

"There are those who are going around giving rice, sardines and other foodstuff," he said.

This act of trying to buy the people's votes by giving them foodstuff, according to Camiña, has compelled him and the bishops of Davao, Tagum and Mati to issue a pastoral letter to be read on March 31.

The letter urges voters to choose the right candidate, not because of his capability to give foodstuff or that they are relatives, but because of his capability to provide good leadership. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Professor appeals to Comelec

DAVAO CITY—A Muslim professor who was declared a "nuisance candidate" by the Commission on Elections last week, has filed an appeal with the poll body to reconsider its decision.

Early last week, the Comelec ruled that Prof. Moner Bajunaid, former chancellor of the Mindanao State University in General Santos City and chair of the defunct technical committee of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panel, could not qualify as a senatorial candidate. The Comelec said he had no party to support his nationwide campaign.

In a telephone interview, Bajunaid said he was running under the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP).

"When I filed my certificate of candidacy on Feb. 12, I already attached an official nomination from the PDSP that I am the party's lone senatorial candidate," Bajunaid said.

The PDSP is capable of launching its slate, as evidenced by the fielding of its candidates in local positions from Abra to Tawi-tawi, he said.

"In fact, in Abra, we have a complete lineup," Bajunaid said.

The Comelec, he said, recognized the PDSP because it was allowed to seek party-list representation in the Lower House.

In 1995, the PDSP fielded at least four senatorial candidates, although none of them was elected.

"I may not be an *artista* (actor) or a radioman. I am not a household name but my name surely rings a bell (among the voters)," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Illegal loggers aiding local bets, says environmental group

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—About half a billion pesos worth of illegally cut logs are being readied for shipment to this city where they would eventually be sold to finance the campaign of local politicians, an environmental group said.

The logs, about 40,000 cubic meters and mostly of red *Lauan* species, are loaded in more than 1,000 trucks near the boundary of Cagayan de Oro and Lanao del Sur, said Orlando Ravanera, chair of Task Force Macajalar.

"It's a huge political war chest from our endangered forests. It's really sickening," he said.

Ravanera declined to identify the politicians but gave the INQUIRER several documents attesting that officials from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao ordered the logging operation.

Hadji Faizal Karon, secretary of the ARMM Department of Environment and Natural Resources, issued a "Resource Use Project" memorandum to the Maranao Alliance For Rural Advancement in Lanao Inc., (Maranao), a registered recipient of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Community-based Management Program.

The memorandum allowed the non-government group to harvest 11,980 cubic meters of logs in Bumbaran town, Lanao del Sur, inside the Lake Lanao Watershed area on Jan. 10.

Karon also informed Fernando Quililan, DENR regional director, that the logs would be transported to Cagayan de Oro where it would be sold.

Quililan confirmed the existence of such documents but said the DENR regional office was "powerless" in stopping the log shipments.

He said former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles had ordered them to "recognize all log cutting permits" issued by the DENR-ARMM.

"Unless the new DENR leadership issues a new order, we could not stop these log shipments," Quililan said in a phone interview.

Ravanera said his group, together with the Catholic diocese of Bukidnon, would set up human barricades this week to stop the trucks.

The barricades would be erected in every key town in Bukidnon and in Cagayan de Oro, he said.

In late 1999, barricades were set up along the highway of Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro to stop the transport of logs from Lanao del Sur into the city.

"We are certain that the politicians in the forthcoming elections would use the proceeds of the logs. We will stop them," Ravanera said.

On Monday, Task Force Macajalar picketed the Cagayan de Oro office of the Philippine National Police-Maritime Command, accusing it of not lifting a finger to stop commercial fishing boats from entering the 12-kilometer municipal waters of Misamis Oriental. *Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Balweg widow running for Abra post

BAGUIO CITY—The widow of rebel priest Conrado Balweg will run for an elective position in her native Abra in the May 14 elections to bring justice to the still unresolved murder of her husband in 1999.

Corazon Cortel-Balweg, who works as a garment trader in Bangued, capital town of Abra, will run for board member of Abra's first district under the Lakas-NUCD-Kampi, which in this part of the country, is the opposition party.

Her husband Conrado, founding leader of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, was gunned down on Dec. 31, 1999 in their family's ancestral house in Malibcong town.

The New People's Army unit operating in Abra and headed by Balweg's younger brother Jovencio claimed responsibility for the murder.

Corazon Balweg will join the Lakas-NUCD-Kampi lineup in Abra headed by Board Member Ernesto Pacuño Sr., more popularly known as Dragon, who will run for governor.

Pacuño facilitated the release of the Sipadan hostages from their Abu Sayyaf captors in Basilan and Sulu last year.

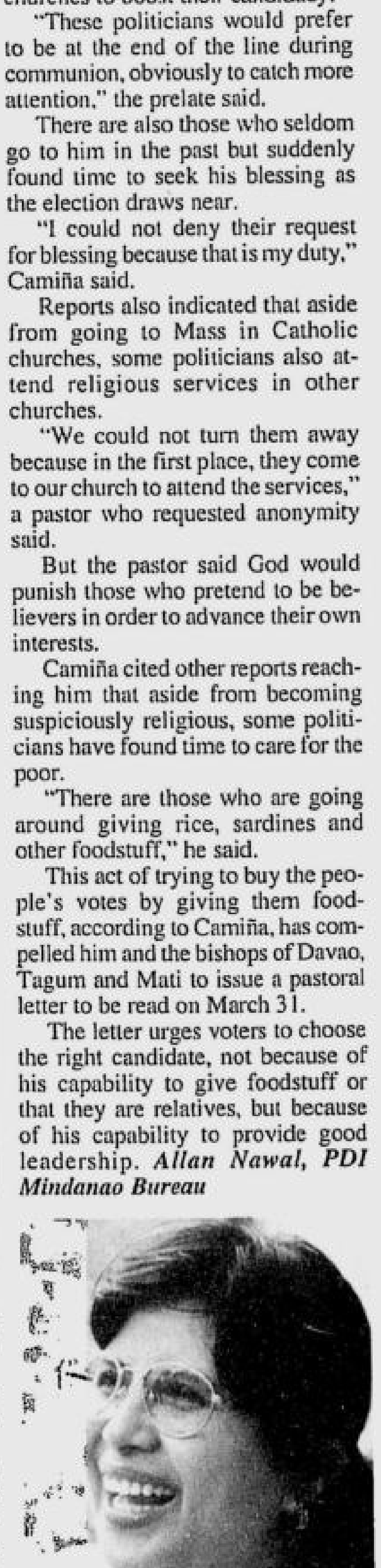
He will face Abra Rep. Vicente Valera of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) and Roy Alzate of the Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa (Ibid) party.

Abra residents are calling the contest between Pacuño and Valera, a three-term governor, as "Dragon vs White Horse."

Valera, during provincial festivities and parades, has been noted for riding a white stallion.

Reports here said that when Pacuño had earlier made public that he would join the gubernatorial contest in the province, Valera reportedly decided to reclaim his former post and asked his wife, incumbent Gov. Ma. Zita Valera, not to seek reelection.

Zita will instead run for mayor of Bangued against the incumbent, Mayor Ramon Purugganan of Lakas. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***


CORAZON CORTEL BALWEG

PMA cadet . . .

(From page15)

Maj. Joseph Latonero Jr., public information officer of the PMA, said they learned of Domingo's death shortly before midnight Saturday.

Despite the incident, Latonero said the PMA reiterates its policy against hazing.

"Maltreatment and all other forms of illegal punishments and misguided actions are not authorized and are never tolerated in the academy," said a PMA statement.

The statement said Carranza, a human rights advocate, had emphasized during his installation as PMA superintendent in January this year that he would not tolerate maltreatment in the academy.

Domingo is the third PMA cadet to die from hazing. Before Saturday night's incident, a son of a general, Andres Ramos Jr., died as a result of hazing on Nov. 9, 1981.

The first fatal hazing victim was Manuel Salas who died on Feb. 13, 1977.

Missing mayoral bet in Masbate surfaces

NAGA CITY—A mayoral candidate in the island-town of San Pascual, Masbate, who had been reported missing together with eight other persons since March 8, appeared yesterday in this city, dispelling speculations that he was abducted by political rivals.

The candidate, Armand Rodriguez, 38, who was reported missing for three days, said their boat sank between the island of Burias and Pasacao town on their way to Naga City.

Rodriguez said they drifted in the open sea until they were rescued by a passing boat and made it to Pasacao yesterday.

Charles Dadua, spokesperson of Rodriguez, said his boss left San Pascual town at about 5 p.m., Thursday, aboard the boat and was expected to reach Naga at about 8 p.m. that same day.

Dadua said Rodriguez had earlier visited Barangay Mabini on the western side of the town before he left in the afternoon for Pasacao, the port town near Naga, together with eight companions.

San Pascual, according to Dadua, has three mayoral candidates, including Rodriguez.

The other candidates are Zacharina Lazaro of the Lakas-NUCD and an ally of the Espinosas, and Jojo Rivera of the PMP, who also claims to be aligned with the Espinosas.

Rodriguez is running under Reporma-LM party and is an ally of Gov. Antonio Kho. *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

POWER OVERCHARGE

Consumers win refund case

DAVAO CITY—Consumers here will be getting a five-year refund of the excess in electric bills charged by the Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Co. (DLPC) from 1984 to 1989.

A 10-page ruling promulgated Feb. 23 by the Court of Appeals reversed an order issued by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) which limits the refund to only 11 months, from Jan. 19, 1984 to Dec. 14, 1984.

Penned by Associate Justice Eliezer de los Santos of the appellate court's ninth division, the court ruled that the ERB should instead set the dates in computing the refund from DLPC from Dec. 14, 1984 to Sept. 18, 1989.

The ruling, concurred in by Associate Justices Godardo Jacinto and Bernardo Abesamis, stemmed from a Supreme Court decision affirming a petition filed by consumer activists Antonio Diaz, a businessman, and Francisco Tesorero, a certified public accountant, to lower the appraised assets, properties and equipment of DLPC.

Tesorero and Diaz argued that DLPC bloated and manipulated the sound appraisal value of its properties, assets and equipment to circumvent the 12-percent ceiling on the allowable rate of return for electric power utilities.

This has allowed DLPC to earn excess profits from consumers.

The Supreme Court instead lowered the appraised value of DLPC's properties, assets and equipment in service as of Oct. 9, 1981 from P282 million to P122 million, paving the way for the consumers to petition the ERB for refund payments from DLPC.

Tesorero said that based on his computation, DLPC earned an excess profit of about P300 million during the five-year period.

But Diaz said an option to convert the refund into shares of stocks to be listed in the name of an association of DLPC customers, which would be organized, was being studied.

In this way, he said, the customers will be empowered to have at least a seat in the DLPC board.

Diaz and Tesorero, who are also officers of the consumer group Konsumo Dabaw, said the decision would have far-reaching positive implications on the struggle of consumer groups against power utility firms that have instituted "manipulative schemes" to increase their profits.

The appellate court also cited the ERB for having "gravely abused its discretion" in changing and modifying the cut-off date in the computation of the consumers' refund without stating the reason for the modification. "This decision is really significant because once again, we proved that the ERB (has) all along (been) protecting the big time business groups rather than the consumers," Diaz said.

ERB regional officials here refused to comment on the decision as they have yet to hear instructions from their superiors in Metro Manila.

Victorio Sumalinog, DLPC public relations officer, said the firm was not making any comments as it had yet to get advice from their head office in Cebu, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, which is the holding firm of the family of former National Power Corp. President Ernesto Aboitiz. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Police arrest 2 leaders of Bayan in Bataan

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two leaders of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Bataan, who were reported abducted on Thursday, have been found under detention since Friday at the Dinalupihan municipal jail on charges of illegal possession of firearms.

Supt. Arnold Gunacao, Bataan police intelligence chief, said the Police Regional Intelligence Office based here captured, and not abducted, Vilma de la Cruz, Bayan-Bataan popular struggles commission director, and her companion Rod Viray.

Seven armed men in plainclothes, believed to be police agents, seized De la Cruz and Viray at gunpoint at 3 p.m. Thursday, the human rights group Karapatan said.

The whereabouts of the two were not known until Saturday, according to Sr. Conchita Valerio, Karapatan-Central Luzon vice chair.

Gunacao, in a telephone interview from Bataan, said De la Cruz and Viray were detained on the basis of an order issued by the Dinalupihan municipal court.

But Gunacao could not say if arrest warrants were issued against the two.

Valerio said the abduction of the Bayan leaders was carried out "in Gestapo-style and with military precision."

"They were nabbed in the absence of a just cause and without the benefit of a warrant of arrest," she said.

De la Cruz and Viray, according to Gunacao, were turned over to the Dinalupihan police on Friday morning.

Valerio on Sunday called the charges fabricated and demanded the immediate release of the two.

She said Thursday's incident, including a military operation by Army soldiers in Barangay Culabasa in Mexico, Pampanga on March 1, has diminished the confidence of the Karapatan in the sincerity of the Macapagal administration to resume peace talks with communist rebels.

Soldiers of the Army's 174th Infantry Battalion and the PNP wore no nametags and nameplates when they raided the village, Valerio claimed.

She said the troops searched the homes of those they suspected to be supporters of the New People's Army. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rebels . . .

(From page 15)

nied charging fees. They said what they are doing are education campaigns to achieve better politics.

Aside from the cash, candidates are told to contribute firearms, Galang said.

Asked where he obtained the figures, Galang said these were based on documents seized after encounters and on the testimonies of rebels who surrendered to the government.

The rebels, according to Galang, are "on a fund-raising mode."

In a report filed in January, the police said 174 villages in the region were under the control of the communist rebels while 653 others were under threats of being influenced.

The Commission on Elections and the Philippine National Police in Central Luzon had listed Angat and Doña Remedios Trinidad towns in Bulacan as "areas of immediate concern" for the May 14 elections.

The classification means that the towns are affected by communist insurgency, violent incidents have occurred there during the May 1998 elections, there are intense political rivalries and violence may likely occur there in the run up to the May 14 elections.

The "areas of concern," where two of the four factors cited are present, reached 303 villages in Central Luzon.

These include villages in Dinalupihan, Orion and Orani towns in Bataan; Hagonoy, Norzagaray, San Miguel and San Rafael towns in Bulacan; San Rafael, Bongabon, Gabaldon, Jaen and Lupao towns and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija; and Mexico town in Pampanga.

On Friday, election and police officials in the region devised a "multi-pronged strategy" anchored on a "worst-case scenario" of cheating and violence.

"We are planning for the worst," Galang told reporters after the meeting of the inter-agency "Oplan Halalan Tres" here.

Because of fund limitations, the regional Comelec and the police are pooling the resources, including personnel, of government agencies and civic groups for the elections.

Vehicles, drivers, radio transceivers, flashlights and support personnel will be assigned to members of the board of election canvassers.

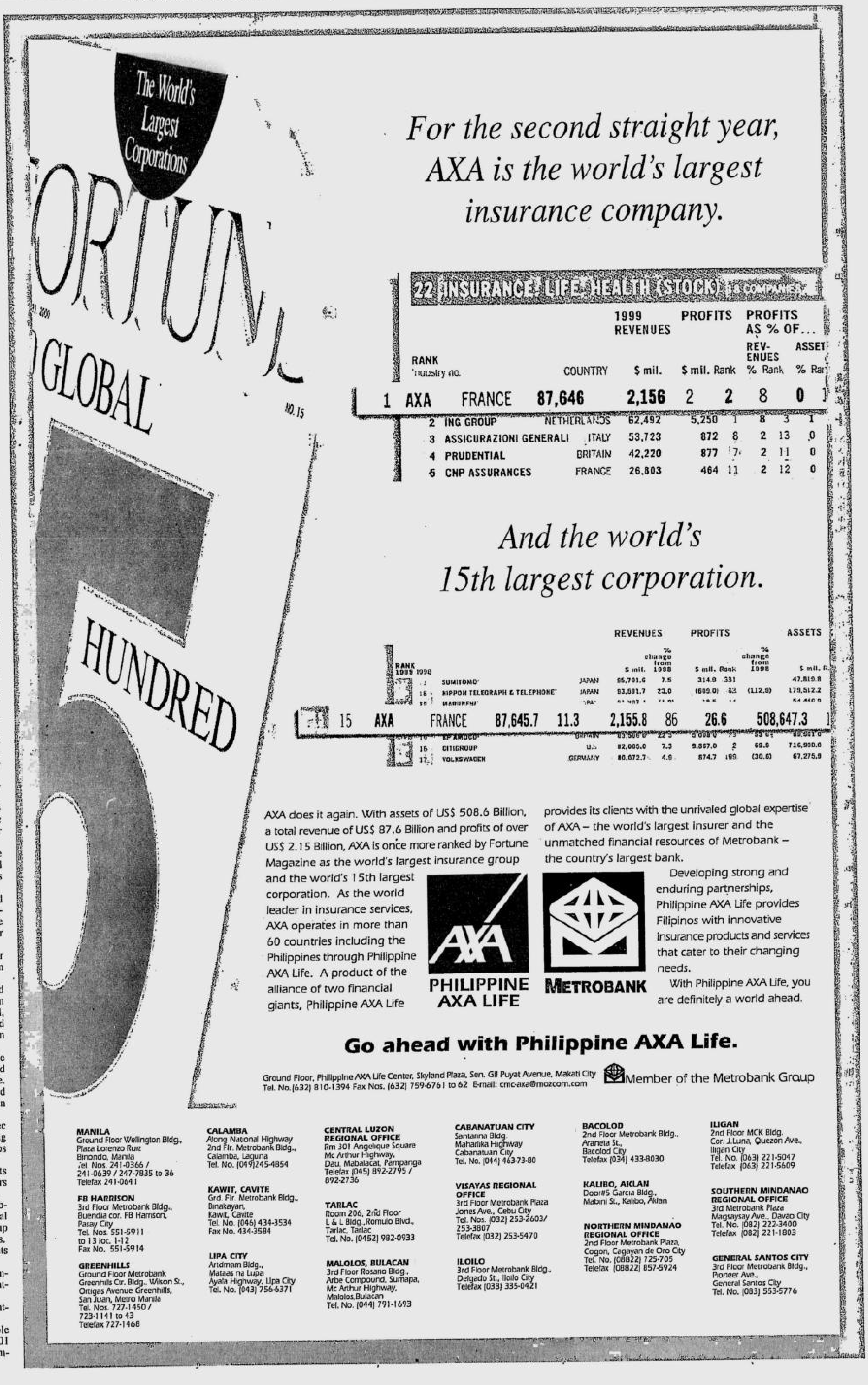
An election monitoring committee will be established in Central Luzon's six provinces. A regional monitoring center for the quick count will be set up in the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas.

The gun ban will be enforced through checkpoints and a crackdown on armed criminal syndicates.

Barangay officials, who are expected to be nonpartisan, will be mobilized to pool emergency lighting equipment at the village level.

"We will not allow darkness to rule the counting," Galang assured.

He said the police "want the will of the people to govern" and have designed the Hope 2001 (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections) campaign to ensure this.



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1	AXA	FRANCE	87,646	2,156	2	2	8	0	
2	ING GROUP	NETHERLANDS	62,492	5,250	1	8	3	1	
3	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,723	872	8	2	13	0	
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		SUMITOMO	JAPAN	95,701.6	7.5	314.9	331		47,819.8	
	18	NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE	JAPAN	93,591.7	23.0	(609.0)	53	(112.9)	179,512.2	
		MARUBENI	JAPAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	
15		AXA	FRANCE	87,645.7	11.3	2,155.8	86	26.6	508,647.3	
		BP AMOCO	BRITAIN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	16	CITIGROUP	U.S.	82,005.0	7.3	9,867.0	2	69.9	716,900.0	
	17	VOLKSWAGEN	GERMANY	80,072.7	4.9	874.7	199	(30.6)	67,275.9	

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Whale shark interaction season opens in Sorsogon town

DONSOL, Sorsogon—The whale shark interaction season officially opened on Tuesday in this once sleepy town with street dancing, a fluvial parade featuring boats carrying giant replicas of whale sharks, and a media tour sponsored by the Department of Tourism.

The festival was dubbed "Butanding Arribada Festival." *Butanding* is the local name for the giant but gentle and harmless whale shark.

The activity has become a yearly event in Donsol every March since 1999, a year after a swarm of whale sharks was discovered in the waters off Donsol.

The Provincial Tourism Council undertakes the project.

Tourists, both local and foreign, have been arriving—eager to swim or interact with the whale sharks.

Donsol itself has gained worldwide prominence because of the extraordinarily large number of whale sharks converging in its waters starting January and February up to March and May.

During the season, 40 to 50 whale sharks can be observed at any time in the waters off Donsol, or just at the mouth of the Donsol River, which empties into the sea.

It is widely believed that the waters off Donsol, directly at the mouth of the long and winding Donsol River, is a rich feeding ground for the *butandings*, which feed on planktons, krill and juvenile fish.

Marine biologists and marine life conservationists, both local and foreign, have also been visiting Donsol and the neighboring towns to observe the phenomenon and study the whale sharks.

As has been the policy since 1998, visitors or tourists who want to interact with the whale sharks are required to register at the Office of the Sangguniang Bayan of Donsol.

A small function room has been prepared for the briefing of tourists on rules and regulations, or how they should conduct themselves when interacting with the whale sharks. ***Reynaldo Jamoralin, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

MANILA DECLARATION
ON RAISING THE QUALITY OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

(Adopted during the First Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health February 15-19, 2001 Manila, Philippines)

As peoples of the vast region of Asia and the Pacific, we are proud of and strengthened by the multi-cultural and diverse religious traditions that enrich our societies. Both within our nations and in our international relationships, we strive to promote tolerance, unity, and mutual cooperation. Diversity can unite peoples together if the differences do not lead to inequity or oppression. Respect and understanding of positive distinctions among our peoples is a strong foundation for progress and a clear direction for development.

Our efforts to improve reproductive health have highlighted the need to address inequitable and oppressive gender structures which are present in all our nations and are destructive of our best efforts toward social improvement. These structures are antithetical to the values espoused in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, covenants of the United Nations, the Program of Action of the ICPD, and the Platform for Action of the Beijing Conference on Women. Gender inequity is a major factor that inhibits women from accepting and accessing reproductive health services and deters the prospect of quality of care. It has serious consequences for adolescent's reproductive health. Gender and socioeconomic inequity exacerbates the fragile reproductive health situation of individuals living in poverty or with limited access to appropriate health services, or with people living in situations of internal conflict.

As gender inequity has serious demographic and social consequences, women and their partners should have appropriate rights and means to achieve their fertility intentions.

Women should also have social and familial support needed to achieve a balance in work and family responsibilities.

Gender equity is the foundation on which the needed improvements in reproductive health for all people can be constructed. We see this in terms of the following basic principles:

- Reproductive rights and responsibilities are human rights and personal responsibilities. These are not the monopoly of any social group, and hence should not be unilaterally decided by any particular social group or institution.
- Reproductive rights of women will only be protected when reproductive rights and responsibilities of all peoples are recognized and promoted in an atmosphere of humane and just structures of society.
- Reproductive rights of individuals will only be protected when societies recognize the freedom of individuals to express responsibly their sexual and reproductive preferences.
- Individual expressions of sexual and reproductive rights will only be safe and responsible if individuals have full knowledge of the potential consequences of their actions, and these expressions are shaped by respect for the rights of other persons.
- Reproductive rights will only be promoted by participation of both men and women.

We thus declare:

Only through a forthright, critical, and effective promotion of gender equity will we be able to ensure reproductive health for all people and development of our societies.

In promoting reproductive health for all, the elimination of all forms of gender inequity and oppression must be a priority for governments, NGOs and other civil society organizations, and international community.

Elements of tradition, religion, law, custom and practices that promote gender inequity or oppression must be subject to public identification and remedial action.

As the promoter of people's welfare and the agency responsible for justice in civil society, governments should significantly increase resources to eliminate gender inequity in all state institutions, and ensure that reproductive health concerns of all are addressed.

Therefore, we the participants of the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health held in Manila, February 15-19, 2001, commit to build collaborative relationships among community partners, program administrators, researchers, educators, service providers, program clients, youth groups, elderly, differently abled, media, non-government organizations, government organizations, inter-governmental bodies, donors and policymakers, to promote gender equity as the foundation for raising the quality of reproductive health.

Further as NGOs are indispensable partners of government in national and international processes for reproductive health, we are forming a network of NGOs and individuals to ensure the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action.

February 18, 2001

Organized by:
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Igorot youths declare 'war' vs tribal wars

BAGUIO CITY—Saying it costs lives and disrupt their studies, Igorot youths have declared war against the practice of Cordillera tribes to engage in wars in resolving conflicts.

About 100 Igorot youths belonging to five organizations said they would draw up a resolution and a position paper for the local governments in the Cordillera to express their opposition to tribal wars.

The young Igorots, who marched down Session Road here last week as part of the celebration of the Kaigorotan Youth Week on Monday, said they were uniting to denounce centuries-old atrocities committed by warring tribes in the region.

The marchers belonged to the University of the Philippines College Baguio-Pagta, Children of the Cordillera (Chico), Gangsa, Bibak and Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

"Wars are not necessary anymore to resolve conflicts among tribes. The youth cannot take the disunity, injustices and lost lives that tribal war had inflicted (on our people)," said Kisack Gabaen, a Chico member.

Gabaen said the conflicts had also affected young people who are studying in the city whenever a tribal war erupts in their provinces.

He said about 65 percent of students in Baguio colleges and universities belonged to various Cordillera tribes.

These students leave their classes for at least a week, either to obey the summons of their elders to come to the tribe's defense or to hide to avoid being hurt by a rival tribe member based in the city, Gabaen said.

In a conference on Bodong and tribal war culture last Saturday, the Igorot youths cited the differences of the causes of the Cordillera's traditional and "new" tribal wars.

Ben Solang, council member of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said a traditional tribal war could be rooted in conflicts based on the defense of a tribe's territorial rights to land, property, resources and life.

Solang said a traditional tribal war also raised the issue of integrity and dignity of a tribe member whenever he or she is injured, killed or physically abused by a rival member.

He said a tribal war could ignite anytime even if there is *bodong* (peace agreement) in certain *Binodngan* areas (where *bodong* is applied).

Bodong, according to Solang, is an indigenous system among Northern Cordillera tribes that defines their relationship and agreements for the defense of their land, life and resources. It includes mutual respect and protection of the tribes honor and territory.

The non-traditional or new tribal war, Solang said, was mainly caused by government intervention.

He said government policies, such as militarization, the implementation of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim and the Certification of Ancestral Land Title (CADC-CALT) systems and the entry of big mining firms, have triggered conflicts among tribes.

These "interventions" have resulted in boundary and water disputes, Solang said.

In the Mt. Province, there is a standoff in the war between the Fidelisan tribe in Sagada and the Dalic tribe in nearby Bontoc because of water.

"The war over water would not have worsened had military not intervened. The water war is also the effect of receding forest cover that paved the way for the entry of mining companies," Solang said.

He said militarization has worsened the situation because some soldiers were among the suppliers of arms to the warring tribes.

In the traditional tribal war, warriors use spears and axes. But in recent wars, the warriors used guns to kill their rivals. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

RP-Russ military exchange plan OKd

GEN. Col. Yuri Baluyeyski shares ideas with Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, Philippine Military Academy assistant superintendent. TOOTS SOBERANO

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippines and the Russian Federation have embarked on a "first important step" toward the modernization exchange of their military forces, outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes said here Saturday.

Reyes said the AFP was open for support from countries like Russia in beefing up its military.

Col. Gen. Yuriy Baluyeyski, first deputy of staff of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, was Reyes' guest in the latter's last official visit here as AFP chief.

This is the first time since the end of the Cold War that a Russian general has visited the Philippines.

"We are on the initial stages in setting up the bridge. We have a long way to go but we're there," Reyes said. "I confirm that the Russian Federation is ready to cooperate with the Philippine government in our military modernization program."

Reyes, however, said a joint visiting forces agreement similar to that forged with the United States was out of the question.

"That is a political question. We are talking about the military," he said.

Baluyeyski, speaking through an interpreter, agreed with Reyes but said that the Russian Army was also undergoing its own modernization program.

"We also have problems like the Philippines. We also need more money to purchase more materials, but we understand very well the position of the host nation," he said.

The Russian Federation has one of the largest armies in the world with one million troops.

Baluyeyski said his country could supply only 40 percent of the equipment needed by its military.

Reyes said the proposed modernization program included not only material exchange but also exchanges in competence, skills and information.

He said the Philippines and Russian Federation would also cooperate in fighting international terrorism.

"Terrorism is a transnational crime," he said.

Reyes and Baluyeyski met during the chiefs of defense conference held in Hawaii in October last year. Reyes invited Baluyeyski to the Philippines and the latter accepted. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Execs urge calamity state for N. Cotabato

DIGOS CITY—The North Cotabato social welfare office has urged the national government to declare the province under a state of calamity to speed up aid to communities suffering from natural disasters.

Zaida Rinsulat, provincial social welfare officer, said several areas were now experiencing early stages of the El Niño weather phenomenon, but help was very slow because of lack of funds.

"Although sometimes it rains, it is not enough to support agricultural activities in some areas, particularly in the hinterland communities," Rinsulat said.

She said the towns of Alamada, Banisilan, Arakan, Magpet and Antipas, considered among the poorest in the province, were suffering from the early stage of drought.

Rinsulat said farmers in the province were also experiencing a double whammy because of rats that damaged their crops a few weeks back.

The problem is also compounded by displacements due to continued fighting between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"There is really a need to declare the province under a state of calamity," Rinsulat said.

In Davao del Sur, the early stages of El Niño is already being felt.

Victoriano Cadungog, Lakas secretary general, said this has provided an opportunity to some politicians to boost their candidacy by providing foodstuff, such as rice, sardines and other things.

Reelectionist Rep. Douglas Cagas also confirmed that some local leaders had informed him of the worsening problem brought about by El Niño.

Like in North Cotabato, some areas in Davao del Sur receive "minute" amount of rain, which is not enough to sustain farm activities.

Then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara said the full effect of El Niño would be felt in August or October. But hinterland areas are already suffering and need immediate attention, Cagas said.

Cagas urged the agriculture department to come up with programs to immediately address the growing problem among farmers, such as their inability to plant due to lack of rain.

"If the government would not act in time, it is not far-fetched that the previous problems we had encountered because of El Niño would be repeated," Cagas said.

In 1998, the government was caught flat-footed because of the lack of programs to cushion the impact of the dry spell. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Tourists coming back to Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The tourists are coming back.

At least 11 major conventions have been scheduled here until May, a sign that Mindanao has recovered from its sagging war image last year, according to the Department of Tourism.

The conventions include the Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) construction working group meeting here on March 21 to 25.

At least 200 delegates are expected to attend the conference, said Dorothy Pabayo, DOT director for Northern Mindanao.

"The tourists are really coming back," Pabayo said.

This development is welcome news for Eileen San Juan and other hotel managers in Cagayan de Oro.

San Juan, manager of Lauremar Hotel, said hotels in the city suffered a 60-percent reduction in room occupancy when the war between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the government broke out last year.

She said the taking as hostages of foreign tourists from Sipadan, Malaysia by the Abu Sayyaf last year was a "double whammy" for the hotel industry in Mindanao.

"Things are picking up now. We are in for a good show," San Juan said.

She said many of the groups scheduled to hold conventions here last year cancelled the events for fear of being caught in the war.

"We all suffered from the bad image of Mindanao," she said.

Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPC, Tantangco bloc united against Namfrel

(From page A1)

academics who examined her study found it a seriously flawed academic exercise with a sloppy methodology. That panel was headed by the late Jose Encarnacion, head of the UP School of Economics and probably one of the most rigorous academics who had ever walked on the UP-Diliman campus.

Despite the discrediting of her study, Tantangco has not diminished her belief in her pet theories and methodology, and from these, she has mounted a sustained opposition to accrediting Namfrel as the quick count organization for the May polls.

Now, enter the NPC. Its proposal came amid the blocking attacks of the Tantangco bloc in the Comelec against Namfrel accreditation. It is not clear whether the NPC and Tantangco are colluding behind the NPC proposal so that if Namfrel is rejected, another can do the quick count.

But if Comelec rejects Namfrel and accredits NPC, this will be the first time since the 1960s that Namfrel would be disqualified from conducting a quick count. Not even the dictator Ferdinand Marcos barred Namfrel from doing the job.

In her study, Tantangco claimed Namfrel's tabulation amounted to colluding in an electoral fraud.

This claim flies in the face of known facts that she continues to ignore. Although there are discrepancies in the results of Comelec and of Namfrel, the end-results of both counts tended to approximate each other, except in the "snap" election of 1986 when the Marcos-controlled Comelec drastically altered the trend in the midst of the tabulation.

Flawed reasoning

The second fact is that there is no way Namfrel can cheat the election to favor anyone. It is the Comelec that keeps the ballot boxes and oversees the counting of votes, not Namfrel. Namfrel does not control the municipal or provincial board of canvassers, not the precinct boards of tabulators who report their results as tabulated by Comelec; they are the responsibility of Comelec. All that Namfrel can do is to reflect the count on precinct, municipal and provincial levels whose results Namfrel has access to as the authorized poll monitoring organization.

But given Tantangco's basically flawed reasoning, it comes as no surprise that she ignores these facts and that her conclusion of Namfrel having been a party to fraudulent tabulation has remained invincible.

An organization that Comelec authorizes as its citizens' arm is allowed to take copies of results from the precinct level, on the basis of which the results are reported to the quick count organization center conducting the nationwide poll, parallel to the much slower Comelec national tabulation.

Thus, accreditation is critical to the conduct of an honest count. The question then that arises if the NPC is officially accredited to conduct such a poll is whether it has the infrastructure to handle the project.

The NPC has never had any experience or infrastructure to conduct such an exercise. Its claim that it has access to the media from which to draw the personnel, facility and resources to stage a national quick count is spurious.

Social club

The NPC is no more than a social club in which nothing serious has been undertaken in recent years. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was a center of political activism and dissidence, emanating from the role of the press as a critic of society. The NPC was the haven of the protest movement against the Marcos regime and was one of the key arenas in the articulation of criticisms against the regime. Since then, the NPC, as an agent of political ferment, has lost that function.

The NPC has not been transparent in revealing who its partners are in financing and supporting its project that Tantangco is using as an alternative to Namfrel. True, media organizations in the past did conduct quick poll counts. Among them were the Philippine News Service, the Manila Times-Channel 5 network, as well as that of the ABS-CBN network. But these organizations had staff and facilities (in those days, telex-based). They had people who went to the precincts to collect returns and feed these to the national tabulating center.

The NPC has nothing to show that it has computer facilities, which you can't install on the basis of paper presentations, or that it has personnel to deploy. It has at least to show that it has the experience, a nationwide network of volunteers and people who can monitor the returns in the precincts, and a national tabulation center doing the technical aspects of a credible quick count.

CIA-funded?

Namfrel, since the 1960s, has demonstrated this capacity for mounting this tabulation on a nationwide scale. The charge that in the 1980s Namfrel was financed by the Central Intelligence Agency begs the question. Namfrel would be judged by its results.

Quick counts were accepted to give the public early trends in order to lend transparency and credibility to the elections. The Comelec has never been able to provide quick results, even up to this day of information technology's revolutionary innovations. In the 1998 elections, it took nearly two weeks for the Comelec to declare the final official results.

So long as the Comelec does not provide complete results within a few days, it must rely on accredited quick count organizations to fill this void. Tantangco has obstructed the computerized quick count proposals, arguing that first priority be given to cleaning the voters' registry list.

In the 1986 elections, when charges of CIA funding of Namfrel were made by the Marcos propaganda machine, it was the Namfrel quick count which glaringly showed a discrepancy between non-official and official tabulations. This alarmed the public because results were being radically altered after a strong trend in the Namfrel tabulation had developed for the opposition leader Corazon Aquino.

Whatever the designs of the CIA and the United States in the 1986 elections, the quick poll count served a useful purpose in alerting the people that Marcos was stealing the election by manipulating the results tabulated by the Comelec.

Tantangco and the NPC should be asked if the NPC is equal to the task of having a national machinery to handle the national tabulation and more, the fairness and integrity to conduct a credible poll tally. The NPC, as a social club, cannot deploy newspaper people as monitors to collect returns. It is a paper organization that talks big.

As for Tantangco, she has a bigger problem. She cannot live down her flawed methodology and pet theories which were shattered by the panel of UP academics. To repair her academic credentials is a bottom line for her to regain her credibility damaged by what amounts to be academic quackery.

Pinays enjoy 'great sex,' poll shows

(From page A1)

Korean women.

Only 21 percent of South Korean women said they had great sex with their partners.

"Whatever happened to Korean bug and ginseng?" asked a Filipino husband who has seven sons.

Married Filipino men are also satisfied with their sex lives. Sixty-six percent said they had great sex with their partners.

In Hong Kong, 55 percent of the men and 35 percent of women said they had good sex with their spouses. In South Korea, 39 percent of the men gave the same statement.

TIME Asia did not explain the high satisfaction level among Filipinos. But an answer could be found in the high "self-esteem" of Filipinos.

Sixty-eight percent of Filipino women think they are sexy. Hong Kong women fare the worst, with only 16 percent saying they feel sexy.

As for the men, 55 percent in the Philippines say they think they are sexy compared with 48 percent in South Korea and only 5 percent in Hong Kong.

Other findings of the TIME survey, which can be found in its March 19 issue on sexual behavior in the region, are the following:

- Virgins are an endangered species almost everywhere, except in the Philippines, where 78 percent of the men said they wanted to marry one.
- Singaporean women (18 percent) initiate sex more than other Asian women.
- Korean women and men are the most likely to read, watch and surf porn. Over the past three months, 31 percent of Korean women admitted watching porn and 28 percent had surfed the Internet for porn, along with 57 percent of men.
- Only 1 percent of Hong Kong women have had a same-sex encounter—compared with 16 percent of Thai women.
- Do you like to be spanked? In Thailand, 37 percent of men and 34 percent of women said yes. In Singapore, 26 percent of men said yes. But in Hong Kong, only 2 percent of men admitted this.
- The Philippines has the highest percentage of men and women who enjoy role-playing. Fifty-four percent of the men and 41 percent of the women said they enjoyed this.
- Monogamy is important: On the average, 80 percent in all five countries agreed. Singapore stands out as being the most committed, with 67 percent of the men saying they have never been unfaithful.

In contrast, 47 percent of Korean men say they have been unfaithful "several times"—and so do 25 percent of Korean women (the highest number among the women surveyed). Only 35 percent of Korean men say they have "never" been unfaithful.

- Thai men are the most gay-friendly among those polled, with 47 percent of them saying they have no problems with homosexuality. In Korea, only 23 percent said homosexuality was acceptable to them.
- The region's favorite position during intercourse? Unquestionably, the top choice is the missionary.

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Benipayo not used to high-profile job

(From page A1)

filed by youth groups demanding special registration.

"No more questions," the Comelec chair said. It was 8 p.m. and he appeared exhausted from the daylong en banc meeting.

Another reporter tried to make light of the situation by seeking a "motion for consideration."

"Motion denied," said Benipayo in the tone of a former Court of Appeals justice and Manila Regional Trial Court judge.

The reporters, four from print and four from radio, nevertheless made no further "appeal" as they were more interested in the list of the 34 senatorial candidates approved by the Comelec.

As Benipayo read out parts of the en banc decision on the senatorial candidates, a radio reporter tried to peek at the document over his back.

The Comelec chair motioned the reporter to stay at the sides. In one instance, he moved two tape recorders placed in front away from him.

On other occasions, however, the 62-year-old official gamely faced cameras and answered questions at length, even making light comments.

Early morning interview

He sometimes allows reporters into his office where he seems to be more comfortable giving interviews.

"Nag-a-adjust pa siya," said a female staff member at the Office of the Chairman, when asked why Benipayo was "media-shy" at times.

But Benipayo said he could not accommodate all media interviews because a lot of work still had to be done in preparation for the May 14 elections.

"Otherwise we won't have time to do any work," he said. "The less (media) attention the better as long as we get the work done."

Since he became Comelec chair on Feb. 16, Benipayo has been getting calls at home early in the morning from radio stations.

"Naliligo ka pa lang gusto ka nang interbyuhin (They want me interviewed while I am still taking a bath)," he said.

Benipayo said he expected to be interviewed more often in the coming days because the public focus was shifting toward the election campaign and Election Day on May 14.

"I'm not really shy but I am not really after media attention," he said.

"What I want publicized are the activities of the Comelec so that the public may know what we have been doing," Benipayo said.

The INQUIRER learned from reporters covering the Supreme Court that Benipayo was not among the officials of the tribunal regularly interviewed by the media since he was an administrator.

Not high profile

Benipayo admitted that being a Supreme Court administrator was "not a high-profile thing." His tasks included supervision of lower courts, monitoring the performance of judges and taking care of the concerns of court personnel like appointments, retirements, transfers and salaries.

He was also responsible for setting up offices of court administrators all over the country.

He was a member of the Supreme Court committee that drafted the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Benipayo has yet to hold a regular press conference. Such event was usually held on Wednesdays during the term of his predecessor, Harriet Demetriou, who also conducted impromptu press briefings right inside her office.

In contrast, Commissioner Rex Borra has become the "darling of the press" because he is not known to deny an interview.

A scan of the news clippings filed by the Comelec education and information department showed that Borra was the most quoted Comelec official to date.

Asked how he felt, Borra said, "What can I do? Reporters come to me."

Ma. Angelina Matibag, director for education and information of the Comelec, informed Benipayo on Feb. 20 that regular weekly press briefings were held every Wednesday.

"We would like to know if Your Honor is in conformity with (the schedule so that we can) prepare the necessary advisories for the tri-media" Matibag wrote Benipayo.

Benipayo finally held a press conference together with three commissioners on March 2.

Before ending the press conference, Benipayo promised to hold media briefings every Wednesday.

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WINNERS ALL

Bb. Pilipinas 2001 winners pose after the coronation on Saturday night. From left: Maricar Balagtas, second runner-up; Zorayda Ruth Andam, Bb. Pilipinas Universe; Maricarie Tolosa, Bb. Pilipinas International; Girlhea Quizon, Bb. Pilipinas World; and Michelle Reyes, first runner-up.

PSG chief leads new generals

(From page A1)

Santiago is chief of the Army's Special Operations Command, mother unit of the elite Special Forces and Scout Rangers.

Also earning a second star was Rear Adm. Antonio Siapno who, as a commodore, was AFP deputy chief of staff for education and training.

Ms Macapagal also promoted to brigadier general Col. Warlito Sayam, commander of the Army's 501st Infantry Brigade based in Tabuk, Kalinga.

The newly promoted officers will take their oaths in Malacañang at 2 p.m. today. They will be accorded separate honors later at Camp Aguinaldo.

Last week, the President made her biggest military-related decision yet, with her appointment of Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as the next AFP chief of staff.

Villanueva, commanding general of the Philippine Army, will replace Gen. Angelo Reyes, who retires on March 17.

Ms Macapagal has yet to announce who the next Army chief will be.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Southern Command chief, and Mindanao-based Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu, 4th Infantry Division commander, are believed to have the inside track for the post.

Camiling and Cimatu were the division commanders who led government troops in the recent campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The President also has yet to decide on a permanent secretary of national defense, a position being held in an acting capacity by retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita.

Mercado

Former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, the first civilian to head the department in the post-Marcos era, yesterday urged Ms Macapagal to consider appointing a civilian and not a former military man to the helm of the DND.

"Ideally the appointee should be a civilian because it is necessary to assert civilian supremacy over the military," Mercado said in a phone interview.

He said the appointment of a civilian defense secretary would contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions that were destroyed during the Marcos dictatorship.

"One reason military intervention has become an engaging option in times of political crisis in our country is that our institutions are weak," Mercado said.

Mercado said a civilian would likely be more effective in instituting reforms in the AFP, particularly in its procurement system.

"It would be easier for a civilian, who is an outsider, to institute reforms," he said. "Instituting reforms in a closed circle like the military is very difficult, especially if the defense secretary comes from the ranks."

Mercado conceded, however, that the selection of a defense secretary was still up to the President.

The last civilian to hold the post before Mercado was Juan Ponce Enrile, who also served during the Marcos regime.

The President has indicated she may appoint Gen. Angelo Reyes to head the DND after he retires at the end of the week.

Irene's attempt to move Marcos billions exposed

(From page A1)

What they also didn't know was that the bank official whom they were supposedly in cahoots with was actually working undercover and reporting to higher officials of the bank, which was, in turn, cooperating with the anti-money laundering authorities.

And finally, they didn't know that their old nemesis, Jacobi, was the contact who had provided the banker and who was coordinating the monitoring activities after informing the German authorities, of the alleged plan as early as October last year.

Deutsche Bank's surveillance cameras, according to Jacobi, captured the transactions of the couple and their cohorts—including Edna Camcam, lawyer Eleazar Reyes from Juan Ponce Enrile's law firm Pecabar, and two American businessmen whom the couple had struck a deal with.

The Aranetas' Valentine Day's trip to Deutsche Bank was one of five allegedly made from Feb. 12 to 20.

To this day, the couple and their partners are unaware that their supposed attempts to launder their Swiss deposits have been tracked closely, said Jacobi in a recent interview with the INQUIRER in Sydney, Australia.

'Manila shouldn't know'

According to the documents obtained by Jacobi from bank sources and anti-money laundering authorities, Irene instructed bank officers to transfer her Swiss bank deposits into an account she opened at Deutsche Bank on Feb. 12—Account No. 7690779.

Jacobi and his longtime associate and lawyer, David Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert, were hidden in a corner of the bank that day when the Aranetas arrived to meet the banker for the first time and open the account.

Irene was very concerned that her new account at Deutsche Bank be kept secret, Chaikin quoted the banker, whose identity remains secret, as saying.

After she opened Account No. 7690779, the banker told her, "We have a Deutsche Bank branch in Manila."

But Irene suddenly turned pale and said, "No, no, no. Nobody in Manila, in Deutsche Bank in Manila, can find out about this," according to Chaikin.

'End of the line'

Copies of instruction letters dated Feb. 14 bear the signature "Irene Araneta" and direct the movement and distribution of the funds. The letters are among seven documents allegedly signed by Irene. Two were allegedly signed by Greggy.

"They didn't know that it was the end of the line," said Jacobi, the controversial investigator once tasked by the Philippine government to unearth the suspected ill-gotten wealth of the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Recently cleared by a US court of a 10-year-old indictment that had tarnished his reputation, Jacobi, cooperating with the Germans, is closely involved in the operation to pin down the Aranetas, and thus vindicate his name and his investigative work of the last 10 years.

One "private and confidential" instruction letter, signed "Irene Araneta," directed the manager of the accounting department in UBS AG in Zurich, Switzerland, to "close all my accounts at UBS AG, including but not limited to, all accounts and sub-accounts under my client number 885931."

Cuts

The documents were all signed before the "friendly banker" at Deutsche Bank's private banking office, and the meeting was recorded by hidden cameras, Jacobi said.

Th 885931 account, under the client name "I. Arenetta," was the focus of a Senate inquiry in 1999 and the subject of an earlier series of INQUIRER reports on Project Recovery, the Estrada administration's alleged plan to recover the billions believed to have been plundered during Marcos' 20-year rule.

"I instruct you to immediately transfer all balances of all of the above-mentioned accounts to my account (Account Number 7690779) at Deutsche Bank, Koenigsallee 54, Dusseldorf, Germany," the instruction letter read.

Three other letters, also bearing the signature "Irene Araneta," contained instructions on how the money would be distributed to her alleged partners in the deal.

American businessman Henry Horace Hutcherson III, nicknamed "Hank," and his group would get 25 percent of the transferred deposits, and Edna Camcam and her group would receive a 6-percent cut, according to the letter.

In all the documents, Irene listed lawyer Eleazar Reyes of the Pecabar law office in Makati as her contact person for all communications with UBS and Deutsche Bank.

Panic button

There are plans to use the documents as evidence against the Aranetas, who have consistently denied maintaining accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, particularly the 885931 account and sub-accounts at UBS, which, as of June 1998, contained $13.2 billion.

Because of the Aranetas' supposed desperation to get the money out of Switzerland, the couple exposed themselves for the first time, said Jacobi, who first learned of the alleged plan in the early days of "Juetengate."

The panic button was further pressed when Joseph Estrada, an old Marcos ally, was forced to leave Malacañang on Jan. 20, and a new administration believed to be unfriendly to the Marcoses came into power.

It was a case of "greed and speed," said Tim Boardman, an American businessman who admits to having been a party to the alleged deal but who decided to cooperate with Jacobi after he was supposedly eased out of the arrangement.

How it happened

In October 2000, Jacobi and Chaikin were approached in Sydney by two American businessmen who had allegedly struck the deal with the Aranetas to help them get the couple's billions out of Switzerland.

The two, Hank Hutcherson and his partner Boardman, knew Jacobi. Hutcherson had financially helped out the Australian in his past investigation into the Marcos wealth, and he thought now that the investigator would go along with his plan.

Hutcherson tried to convince him that Jacobi would not get paid for his decade-long work for the Philippine government, and that the best way to get paid was to help them out in their alleged deal with the Aranetas.

Times were changing. The Aranetas started to panic when Estrada was losing control in October. They had decided, according to Boardman, to find ways to get their accounts out of Switzerland as quickly as possible.

"That was during the time that President Estrada had just been exposed on the numbers game, 'jueteng.' That was it," said Boardman in a recent interview in Australia.

"That whole thing had just blown up. They had felt that President Estrada had become a liability to the Marcoses," Boardman said, recalling what Edna Camcam said during the first few meetings on the deal.

From out of the blue

Curtiss Waters, a longtime friend of the Marcoses, recommended Hutcherson to Camcam, the longtime companion of the late Gen. Fabian Ver, the late dictator's trusted military chief and right-hand man.

Waters called up Hutcherson, the son of a close friend, in the United States "from out of the blue," and said that he had arrived at an agreement with Camcam and her people.

The Aranetas were allegedly looking for a "friendly banker" who could help them quietly transfer their funds, and they were willing to pay.

Waters told Hutcherson "that if we had a banker that could do this transaction, they were willing to meet with us. So Hank calls me and we discuss this," Boardman said.

He said he and Hutcherson decided to fly to Manila, and met with Waters at the Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong.

They stayed in Manila for about four or five days. Waters arranged the meetings with Edna Camcam, her son Junjun and the Aranetas' lawyer, Eleazar Reyes, Boardman said.

He recalled that during one meeting with Waters, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had just finished one of his press conferences at the same hotel, where he charged that Estrada had accepted jueteng bribes.

Imelda in the dark

They met with Camcam at her home in Forbes Park in Makati City, Boardman said.

Camcam told them that she had been meeting with former first lady Imelda Marcos, whom she called "Ma'am."

"She (Camcam) was trying to work out a situation so that they could help Greggy and Irene recover these funds. And she wanted her (Imelda's) blessing to move forward," Boardman said, recounting a conversation with Camcam during the first meeting at her house.

"But at that point, she told us that that Ma'am was kept in the dark. They didn't want her to know because they felt that she would be problematic," Boardman said.

"They didn't know what she would do and they thought that she would talk," he added.

Boardman said he and Hutcherson went to the meetings with the "full faith and support" of Curtiss Waters.

"He (Waters) arranged all the meetings and took us in and he represented us to them—saying that we were the guys that could get this transaction done for them," he said.

Hutcherson and Boardman assured Camcam and Reyes that they could find the banker that the Aranetas needed.

Then they flew to Sydney to ask for Jacobi's help.

Alerting authorities

Jacobi explained that he informed the "proper authorities" in Germany as soon as the Americans approached him in October.

"We wanted the proper authorities to know about this plan of the Aranetas to launder their money so everybody would be put on the alert," he said.

He explained that it was not an entrapment procedure, since Hutcherson and Boardman had approached them, and the Aranetas would presumably have tried to get their Swiss deposits out one way or the other.

In their first meetings with Hutcherson, Jacobi and Chaikin told him that they would later travel to Germany for a meeting with Camcam's group.

But "once there in Germany, Hank refused to have me meet with Edna Camcam and Reyes and Junjun. Nor would he allow me to meet the Aranetas—Gregory and Irene. And the reason he gave me was that . . . Edna Camcam and Reyes and Hank had not told the Aranetas that Reiner Jacobi was providing the friendly banker," Jacobi said.

Finding right man

The events converged, four months later, when the Aranetas allegedly dropped their guard and exposed themselves in the bank in Germany in their supposed haste to get their money.

When it was certain that the Aranetas were bent on going through with the plan with the "dirty banker"—whom they thought would be provided by Hutcherson—Jacobi again notified the authorities in Germany.

The authorities then contacted Deutsche Bank, he said.

During subsequent meetings, it was discussed whether an outsider, a law enforcement officer, should pose as the banker.

Jacobi suggested that a real banker,, an official of Deutsche Bank, should deal with the Aranetas, since the couple or their advisers might otherwise suspect that something was wrong, particularly if there were too many questions.

He suggested the name of an "honest and straightforward" bank official. The authorities then gave instructions to this banker, according to Jacobi, and in the end, the Aranetas apparently did not suspect a thing.

"The word days later (was that) the Aranetas felt very comfortable with the banker," Jacobi said.

'They were waiting'

Even when they learned of the dates that the Aranetas were scheduled to arrive in Dusseldorf and visit the bank, Jacobi and Chaikin doubted whether the couple would go through with the plan.

"I could not believe that the Marcoses' daughter and son-in-law would be stupid enough to take such a risk and go to a German bank, requesting that their accounts be transferred," Jacobi said.

But "we let this whole project go forward. Even the proper German authorities did not think that the Aranetas would really arrive."

Jacobi and Chaikin notified Deutsche Bank that the Aranetas were coming.

The "crooked" bank official was also notified. He had the green light from the top to play his part.

"So the bank knew what was going to take place," Chaikin said. "They were waiting. The proper money laundering authorities were fully informed of the plans of Greggy and Irene Araneta. Those plans being that they were going to open up an account in Deutsche Bank for the purpose of transferring their money from UBS in Switzerland."

At the bank

The Araneta couple arrived in Germany on Feb. 9, a Friday, after Curtis Waters and Hank Hutcherson assured them that the "friendly banker" was real.

"And then the events started to move forward very quickly. And they actually went into the bank. Greggy wanted to test the banker and sent his wife in to open an account, a personal account," Jacobi recalled of the Aranetas' visit to Deutsche Bank on Feb. 12.

"That was the first time that we had definite knowledge that she was in a bank, and Greggy was with her, of course, and so was Attorney Reyes and Hank.

"She opened an account and presented her passport to the banker to identify herself as Irene Araneta on the documents that you have in front of you," he told the INQUIRER.

Jacobi and Chaikin were inside the bank when the Araneta couple arrived.

"I was hidden in the bank. I did not go down to the private banking section. That is an area where you can be seen or be easily spotted," he recalled.

"But the bank is big enough. It's a huge monstrosity of a building. When you enter the bank, to the left is a sitting area, the investors' corner, where you can relax, have a cup of coffee and there are many corners where you can hide," he said.

Irene opens account

The Aranetas arrived at the bank with Eleazar Reyes and Hutcherson, Jacobi said.

Irene opened the account around 11:45 a.m. that Monday, he said.

"It was a relatively quick meeting," Chaikin said.

After the Aranetas arrived, "Hank took them to meet the private banker. They sat upstairs at the coffee place. Then Hank took them to the private banker (in a private room). Irene filled out the form, showed her passport and opened up the account," he said.

"The banker knew what was taking place because his supervisor knew what was going on. The Aranetas did not know that the banker's supervisor knew what was going on. So they (the bank officials) let them do this to see what would happen," he said.

"As soon as the Aranetas would leave or anybody would leave, the banker got off his hot seat, ran upstairs as fast as he could, to hand (any document Araneta would sign) to the proper authorities," Chaikin said.

Why did the Aranetas drop their guard and go to the bank?

"If you have a group such as Reyes, Edna Camcam, Hutcherson, who convinces you that you have a dirty banker, that they can provide such individual, you would think heaven just opened," Jacobi answered.

"Because finally they can put their hands on their ill-gotten wealth and that is what happened in this case. At no time can they argue that they didn't know that there was money or they didn't know that the accounts were there. That's impossible" now, he said. *(To be continued tomorrow)*

TERRY, KUKOC STAR

Hawks end losing slump

ATLANTA—Jason Terry scored 19 points and Toni Kukoc added 16 as the Atlanta Hawks snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 93-90 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Ron Artest, who hit a 3-pointer inside the final two seconds, joined Elton Brand in leading the Bulls with 20 points Saturday night.

Chicago, the worst team in the NBA, has lost five of seven, eight of 11 and 24 of 29. The Hawks, owners of the league's fourth-worst record, avoided setting the second-longest losing streak in Atlanta history.

Hornets 100, Bucks 90

Eddie Robinson scored 20 points—six off alley-oop dunks—as the Charlotte Hornets moved within three games of Central Division-leading Milwaukee by beating the visiting Bucks.

Jamal Mashburn, who missed Thursday's game with a bruised sternum, scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Hornets clinched the tiebreaker between the teams by winning the season series 3-1.

Ray Allen led Milwaukee with 32 points, but 24 came in the first half as the Bucks' three-game winning streak came to an end.

Magic 105, Timberwolves 93

Tracy McGrady scored 33 points and Don Reid had 11 points and 13 rebounds in Orlando's home victory over Minnesota.

Kevin Garnett had 21 points for Minnesota—but none in the fourth quarter—and 15 rebounds.

After a close first half, Orlando broke open the game late in the third quarter with a 10-1 run, Mike Miller's 3-pointer from the left wing putting the Magic ahead 79-66 with 2:40 remaining in the period.

Wizards 107, Nets 101

Richard Hamilton's breakaway dunk broke a tie in the final minute and Washington ended a six-game home losing streak.

Hamilton scored 25 points, Christian Laettner had a season-high 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Mitch Richmond added 21 points as the Wizards beat an Atlantic Division team for only the second time in 20 tries this season.

Kenyon Martin scored 21 points and Stephon Marbury had 20 points and 12 assists for the Nets, who made just one field goal and one free throw over the final 4:17. *AP*

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE			WESTERN CONFERENCE		
Atlantic Division	W	L	Midwest Division	W	L
Philadelphia	46	16	Utah	43	18
Miami	38	25	San Antonio	43	19
New York	36	26	Dallas	39	23
Orlando	34	28	Minnesota	37	26
Boston	27	35	Houston	35	28
New Jersey	22	43	Denver	30	34
Washington	15	48	Vancouver	20	43
Central Division	W	L	Pacific Division	W	L
Milwaukee	38	23	Sacramento	41	19
Charlotte	36	27	LA Lakers	41	20
Toronto	34	29	Portland	42	21
Indiana	27	33	Phoenix	36	25
Detroit	23	39	Seattle	31	33
Cleveland	22	39	LA Clippers	22	42
Atlanta	19	45	G. State	18	47
Chicago	11	50			

Complete results—Washington 107, New Jersey 101; Atlanta 93, Chicago 90; Charlotte 100, Milwaukee 90; Orlando 105, Minnesota 93; Houston 86, Golden State 81. *AP*

CARMONA KARTING

Angelo Barretto (90) and Lee Bumgarner (133) figure in a tight battle in the newly-introduced Formula 125 category during the first leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite. Barretto topped the event also supported by Nokia, Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Match Box/Hot Wheels and Eastway Racing Company.

Agassi tormentor makes it to final

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—With the patience of age on his side, Francisco Clavet upset defending champion Lleyton Hewitt, the No. 4 seed, 6-3, 6-4 Saturday to advance to the final of the Franklin Templeton Classic.

The unseeded Spaniard, who upset second-seeded Andre Agassi in the first round, played a steady game while the 20-year-old Hewitt self-destructed with 39 unforced errors on a chilly, windy, overcast afternoon.

In Indian Wells, Martina Hingis led the way into the fourth round of the Tennis Masters Series tournament Saturday night, riding her current wave of confidence to a 6-3, 6-0 win over a Spanish challenger.

Like most early-round opponents, Cristina Valero proved to be no match for the world number one, aiming for a third straight tournament title after winning back-to-back events in the Gulf last month. *AP/AFP*

Anti-drug policy

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

ONE would think that the NBA has enough problems this season—empty seats in most arenas, dwindling television ratings and alarming fan apathy toward the games.

Now, the league also has to address the substance-abuse menace that has so far victimized four players since the start of the season, the latest being Isaiah Rider of the reigning NBA champion LA Lakers and blossoming star Lamar Odom of the sad-sack La Clippers.

While all appear to be a minor violation of the NBA's anti-drug abuse policy—if it were a case of cocaine or heroin use, the penalty would have been very severe with a minimum two-year ban—still it is a problem that may further erode the credibility of the League.

On November 29, Miami forward Don MacLean became the first NBA player to be slapped a five-game suspension without pay by the league for testing positive for steroids. According to his agent, Mark Bartlestein, the 6-10 MacLean was not using steroids to bulk up. He had bad tendinitis in his knees and it was suggested that he take a supplement instead of an anti-inflammatory because the latter was upsetting his stomach. It turned out the supplement, which Bartlestein did not identify, was considered a steroid under the guidelines of the steroids policy approved by the NBA and the players' union in 1999, MacLean's agent added that his client stopped taking the supplement once he learned about its ban.

On Valentine's Day, Philadelphia center Matt Geiger received a two-game suspension without pay for violation of the steroids policy. The 7-1 Geiger claimed his suspension was "totally unrelated to the use of any illegal drugs."

"For as long as I've been in the NBA, I've always used a number of different over-the-counter supplements during my offseason training," said the high-priced but underachieving frontliner. "Last summer, I was notified by the NBA that new products and drugs had been added by the league to the list of banned substances. Once I realized that the product I was using was on the list, I immediately stopped taking it. Unfortunately, the product I had used generally remains in your body a significant period of time. As a result, when I was tested under the new regulations, traces of the drug I had used before it was prohibited remained in my system and led to the suspension."

Finally, Rider and Odom also were meted a five-game suspension each last March 7 for violating the NBA's anti-drug program. Although no details were given—the league and players' union are prohibited form disclosing information regarding the testing and treatment of any NBA player suspended for steroid use other than to announce the suspension or dismissal—the duo probably got the ax for steroid use as well.

The 6-5 Rider, who's averaging an eight-year career-low 8.1 points in 18.7 minutes of reserve action with the Lakers, has been troubled by numerous on-and off-court transgressions during his previous stops at Minnesota, Portland and Atlanta. Often tardy to team practices, he was suspended for a total of 12 games in his three-year stint (1996-99) with the Trail Blazers, including three by the NBA in 1997 for spitting at a fan in Detroit. In May 1997, Rider was convicted of marijuana possession and later pleaded no contest to possessing unregistered cellular phones.

Luzon swim meet at PCA

THE Manila Seahawks Swimming Club is staging the Luzon Swimming League 2001 on March 24-25 at the Philippine Columbian Association swimming pool.

Event organizer Angelo Lozada said the age-group meet will be for Class A and B swimmers. Class A swimmers are those whose best time for the year 2000-2001 are equal or faster than the cut-off time to be entered in the Class A events.

The age group levels are 6-under, 7-8 years, 9-10, 11-12, 13, 14 and 15 and above. To qualify for the age brackets, participants must have reached the age requirement as of Jan. 2001. Participants will be required to produce a birth certificate.

Events on tap are the 50m and 100m in the butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle in all age groups and classes, the 4xSO freestyle and medley relay and the 100 and 200 individual medley.

The top three team champions will receive championship trophies. In individual competition, medals will be awarded to the top three in both classes, with ribbons for fourth to eighth places and trophies for outstanding age group swimmers.

Deadline for registration is March 19. No late entries will be accepted. There is no limit to the number of entries a swimmer may swim. For inquiries, call up Angelo Lozada through tel. no. 563-5532, 564-4648, fax no. 564-61-24 or e-mail lssas@email.com.

SPORTSWATCH

Mosley keeps crown

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—American Shane Mosley stopped Australia's Shannan Taylor after the fifth round here Saturday to win a battle of unbeatens and keep his WBC welterweight title. Mosley rose to 37-0 with his 34th early stoppage in his second defense of the title he won from Oscar de la Hoya last June while Taylor suffered his first defeat against 28 triumphs and a draw. Mosley knocked down Taylor late in the first round and punished him with a series of punches late in the fifth round that led referee Vic Drakulich to halt the bout as Taylor sat on his stool in the corner of the ring. Mosley, a huge bettors' favorite, was paid $1.75 million. *AP*

'Celes' new champion

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Japan's Shoji "Celes" Kobayashi floored Leo Gamez of Venezuela in the 10th round for a technical knockout to become the new super-fly champion on Sunday. The knockout time came two minutes and nine seconds into the round when Kobayashi fired a left straight to the face and then a left hook to the chin as the champion fell on the mat. It was a second attempt at a world title for Kobayashi, ranked ninth in the WBA, who failed in his first crack in the World Boxing Council flyweight match against Malcolm Tunacao of the Philippines in August last year. The 28-year-old new champion stretched his record to 23 wins, including 14 KOs, against four defeats and three draws. *AFP*

NCA 7th leg today

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association marks the seventh leg of its 15-leg NCA 7-Cock Derby today (Monday) and Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum, with pulse-pounding fights awaiting the aficionados. Featuring the beset entries of the country's most prominent cocker-breeders, the derby will be hosted by Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla and engineer Romy Panganiban. Three-cock elimination fights will be held today, ending with the four-cock finals on Wednesday, March 14. Cockfighting luminaries will see action, including past NCA champions Jessie Vice (San Rafael), the Alan Tan-Patrick Puno tandem (Capitan III), big Dome owner Nene Araneta (Thunderbird-Firefly IV), Gerry Fevidal (Geran), Ruel Ricafort and E. Santos (RT-114 Geran Mapalad), Pampanga's Eric Yu (New Guagua Coliseum) and lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud (Winning Time-DVH).

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Ms. Shella Doronilla
Davao Del Norte
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Drugstore Outlet: Perpetual Pharmacy, Tagum City

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5. Mr. Raymond A. Jamili - Pasay City
6. Ms. Annaliza B. Gungon - Nueva Ecija
7. Mr. Jimmy G. Matammu - Laoag City
8. Mr. Richard Clarete - Batangas City
9. Ms. Bernaliaida Ferrer - Cebu City
10. Ms. Allyn C. Arguellas - Malate, Manila

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2. Mr. Jon Mafondo	Cagayan de Oro	Ms. Lourdes Empleo	Rose Pharmacy, Cagayan de Oro City
3. Ms. Maricon Roan Amanda	Batangas	Ms. Helen Lima	Botica Castro/Gen. Merchandise, Los Banos, Laguna
4. Ms. Carmelita Batacan	Proj. 8, Quezon City	Ms. Brenda Nino	Family Drugstore, SM City, West Avenue, Quezon City
5. Ms. Mary Jane Coronado	Cubao, Quezon City	Ms. Rosa Bentillo	M/C Healthcare, Quezon City

5 Cameras

		Sales Clerk*	Drugstore Outlet
1. Ms. Alda Bucalen	Taytay, Rizal	Ms. Eleonor Villon	M/C Healthcare, Quezon City
2. Ms. Olivia Habana	Marikina	Ms. Sherill Ann Austria	Family Drugstore, Marikina
3. Ms. Ria Galuza	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	Ms. Ellen Esguerra	Astro Drug, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
4. Ms. Ginhawa Masana	Novelata, Cavite	Ms. Delma Atollo	Mateos Pharmacy, Cavite
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* Sales clerks will also win prizes as previously announced.

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HONDA LEADER

Parnevik rips record

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida—Heron Bay's best defender took the day off Saturday. Jesper Parnevik, along with the rest of the field, took advantage.

On a rare, windless day when the flags didn't sway unless they were being taken out of the holes, the only significant movement at the Honda Classic was on the leaderboard.

Parnevik shot a 6-under-par 66 in the third round to retain a three-shot lead at 18 under, breaking J.P. Hayes' 54-hole tournament record of 200 set last year. Mark Calcavecchia (66) was 15 under, followed by Geoff Oglivy (65) and Dan Forsman (65) at 14 under.

"Three shots is not as big as it sounds," Parnevik said.

Calcavecchia disagreed.

"It's going to be tough running him down. ... It just doesn't happen these days unless you get on a super, super hard course. And we're not on a super hard, hard course.

"He's going to make some putts and probably play a good round of golf. So that extra couple of shots is big. One shot is nothing, but three—three could be a little tougher. But that certainly doesn't mean I don't think I have a chance. I'll make him sweat a little."

Through nine tournaments this season, six winners have come from behind on the final day.

Lee Janzen tied the course record with a 64 but was five strokes back along with John Daly, who shot a 67. Forsman started the day in a 13-way tie for ninth place, while Janzen and Forsman were deadlocked in 29th.

"It was a completely different golf course today," Oglivy said. "It was there for the taking."

And nearly everyone did. Only two players, Stephen Ames and Gabriel Hjertstedt, were over par. Both shot 73.

Parnevik started the day with three straight pars, then made birdie on five of the seven holes to move to 17 under. He gave a stroke back on the par-3 No. 15—the only hole he has bogeyed this week—but got it right back with a birdie on the 16th.

PARNEVIK

He might have saved his best shot for last, though.

With his approach shot on No. 18 landing in the thick rough, he was left with little green to work with for his chip. So he just knocked it in.

"You have to be lucky to win these days on the PGA Tour," Parnevik said.

Calcavecchia, who birdied five of six holes beginning with No. 9, pulled even with Parnevik at 16 under with a birdie on No. 16. But the 40-year-old Calcavecchia duck hooked his drive on the par-4 17th and settled for bogey.

"I was just happy to par 18 after that," he said.

Calcavecchia continued to make a rapid recovery from knee surgery two weeks ago. He needed 11 painkillers to get through the first round, but that number was down to seven Saturday.

He tore the medial meniscus in his left knee during the Bob Hope Classic and had surgery Feb. 21. It was his third knee procedure, the second on his left knee.

"You don't realize how easy it is to walk 18 holes until you have a knee that's killing you. It's tough to walk," said Calcavecchia, a two-time Honda Classic winner who decided to play this week partly out of loyalty to the tournament. "Every time my left foot hits the ground it hurts." *AP*

Pagcor duty-bound to help sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS common knowledge that without government support, there is no salvation for sports.

That is why the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp., the money-rich government agency, should release immediately the five-percent share of the Philippine Sports Commission, estimated at P250 million, for the use of the Filipino athletes who are honing for international meets, including the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur Sept. 8-17.

Now is the time for President Macapagal to prove she truly cares for the well-being of the people, the sporting public in particular, by extending a helping hand—notwithstanding her call for austerity. By doing so, she will not only boost the morale of sports leaders but lift the spirits of the athletes as well. There is a need for the immediate release of the Pagcor funds so as not to disrupt the training calendar of the national athletes, making them competitive, at least in some ways, in the coming SEA Games.

Thus, Pagcor chair and president Ephraim Genuino should consider heeding the clamor to further help sports by releasing the full five-percent share of the PSC which will be distributed to the various National Sports Associations. These NSAs in turn will use the money to prepare their athletes for local and international competitions.

But I would like to stress again that PSC and NSA officials should prove first that they are deserving of Pagcor's total support by showing their sincerity. They should not treat international and regional meets as a junket. And sports leaders who have no personality in the games but will be joining the delegation anyway at taxpayers' expense should stay home and conserve precious dollars.

Also, I hope I am wrong but the Philippine delegation, numbering 350 athletes and officials (and still increasing?) is not expected to make much impact on the SEA Games. Why? Because there is clearly a pattern of declining performances by Filipino athletes in the biennial meet. From a lofty second-place finish in Manila in 1991, the Philippines dropped to third in Singapore in 1993 and in Thailand in 1995, slipping further down to fourth in Indonesia in 1997 and landing a poor fifth in Brunei in 1999.

Yet, despite all this and aggravated by the present problems besetting several NSAs, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit had predicted at least a fourth place finish for the country in Kuala Lumpur this year. "I should say that the best would be a fourth place finish and the worst is probably sixth," Dayrit stressed. Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are fielding formidable teams, Dayrit noted. "If Singapore would send a very strong delegation, we could even be bumped off to sixth."

Valley hosts amateur circuit 2nd leg

THE Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit resumes on March 20 with the Valley golf and Country Club in Antipolo hosting the second leg at its challenging championship south course.

Former national ladies champion Ruby Walker-Chico and Gene Bondoc, winners of the top awards during the kick-off leg at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite are expected to seek back-to-back victories.

The two, however, will encounter rough sailing as a tougher field will be assembled for the Valley leg of the series held under the auspices of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Walker-Chico already had stamped her class on fellow national pool players like Heidi Chua and Lucy Landicho.

According to NGAP tournament chairman Iggy Clavecilla, the results of the series sponsored by Titleist and Footjoy through exclusive Philippine distributor Dynamic Sports Corp. will weigh heavily on the selection of the country's team to events like this year's Southeast Asian games in Malaysia and the Putra Cup.

Also sponsoring the circuit going around seven of the country's most exclusive courses are Nextel, Chris T. Sports and GG&A Club Shares.

Registration is still open for the event featuring a 72-hole competition for championship men (handicap 0-4,4), the 54-hole ladies championship (0-9.4) and the 36-hole events for men's Group I (0-4.4), Group II (4.5-10.4) and Group III (10.5-19.4) and Group IV (19.5 and above) and ladies. Interested players may sign up at the NGAP office, any Chris T outlet or GG&A offices.

Prizes donated by Titleist-Footjoy are in store for the winners. The first player to score a hole-in-one also wins a top-of-the-line golf set from the sponsors.

Delasin 5 shots off Sorenstam

FILIPINO Dorothy Delasin moved one rung higher to fifth but fell five strokes off new leader Annika Sorenstam despite a 2-under-par 70 yesterday in the third round of the $750,000 Welch's/Circle K Championship in Tuczon, Arizona.

Delasin banked in birdies on the 13th and 15th holes to keep her chances for the $117,000 top prize, carding her third straight sub-par round for a 54-hole aggregate of 205, 11 under par.

With her consistent form, Delasin is bound to register her first top 10 finish this season after struggling in her first four starts.

Already missing two cuts, the LPGA Rookie of the Year's best finish came in Hawaii last month where she placed 13.

Another Filipino, Jennifer Rosales, also moved within striking position for her second top 10 finish of the young season. Rosales, already boasting of a third place showing, birdied the last two holes also for 70 that sent her to a share of 15th at 208.

The big finish came as a big relief for Rosales, who have gone up-and down with birdies on 2, 3 and 11 that was nullified by bogeys on 8, 9 and 12.

Her strong start in the LPGA put her in a position to secure her 2002 card early. Players with winnings of at least $90,000 during the year are assure of a stint in the next season. *Jong Arcano*

KOREAN CAGERS ROGER MARGALLO

South Korea's Joong Ang University team (above) is welcomed by Ms Alita 'Jam' Mercado (middle) at the Naia yesterday. Joong Ang, reigning Asian Inter-University champion, will compete in the 1st Bert-Lina-Jam Mercado Battle of the Champions starting on Tuesday in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

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Kuerten Player of the Year

INDIAN WELLS, California—Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten's rise to world number one last year has earned him the award as top player of 2000 on the ATP Tour. "Guga," who finished atop the points table in the season-long Champions race last November, will be presented with a specially crafted award by Waterford Crystal. The 24-year-old took five titles in 2000. *AFP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PSA Forum tomorrow

THE PSA Forum will discuss issues within the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) during its weekly session tomorrow at the Holiday Inn. PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and PSC counterpart Richie Garcia are appearing in the public service program which has Red Bull, Agfa Colors and McDonald's as sponsors. The program starts at 10:30 a.m.

PEEK: Career-high 27 points. FILE PHOTO

Alaska tames Red Bull

Peek takes charge in 95-76 victory

GAMES WEDNESDAY(Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Pop Cola

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALASKA Milk brought Batang Red Bull back to the ground with a resounding 95-76 victory last night, winning four straight games in the PBA All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Aces couldn't do anything wrong last night, methodically wearing out the Thunder to send across a strong message that they are still a force to reckon with despite a major shake-up in their lineup.

In fact, it was the new additions, headed by Ali Peek, who starred in the telling rout that ended the Thunder's three-game winning run.

But of course, Alaska coach Tim Cone was ready with his trademark modesty amid his team's undeniable excellence.

"I don't know if we are back in (championship) shape, but I know that we really, really played well," said Cone.

Even that was an understatement. The truth is, Alaska overwhelmed Red Bull in all aspects of the game to get back at the team that dealt it a 73-72 loss last month.

In the first half alone, the Aces hit 22 of 33 attempts, while making the Thunder's lane impenetrable even by Red Bull's key slashers like Lowell Briones and Willie Miller.

Making it very difficult for Red Bull to check Alaska's guns was the fact that Peek took the cudgels from usual hitman Kenneth Duremdes.

Peek scored a career-high 27 points on top of eight rebounds, three assists and two steals, while keeping Red Bull big men Kerby Raymundo and Devonn Harp in check.

Alaska's starters led the assault with double-digit performance each, resting briefly in the second half—where they allowed Red Bull to come to within eight—before firing away till the end.

Patrick Fran sank four straight free throws in the final 16 seconds to lift Mobiline to a 76-73 win over Purefoods in the second game.

The Phone Pals blew a 19-point lead and had to struggle in the endgame to register their third win in eight games. The Hotdogs fell to 3-6.

Scores:

ALASKA 95—Peek 27, Allado 16, Santos 16, Duremdes 16, Arigo 12, Evans 4, Wallkvist 2, Ordonio 2, Reyes 0, Ticzon 0, Gahol 0.

RED BULL 76—Miller 14, Harp 12, Agustin 12, Briones 11, Capacio 8, Mendoza 6, Valenzuela 6, Solis 3, Raymundo 3, Tanpua 1, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 28-22, 53-36, 76-57, 95-76.

MOBILINE 76—Camaso 18, Codiñera 16, Fran 15, Ejercito 7, Demape 6, Babilonia 5, Ravena 4, Cui 4, Gonzales 3

PUREFOODS 73—Feihl 18, Evangelista 16, Patrimonio 12, Fernandez 8, Yee 7, Magsanoc 6, Castillo 4, Yap 2, Victoria 0.

Quarters: 29-14, 48-38, 63-57, 76-73

Longer term for sports body officials proposed

LIVING by the adage politics and sports don't mix, Commissioner Richie Garcia yesterday batted for the fixed tenure of Philippine Sports Commission officials in the face of the country's fast changing political landscape.

Garcia said every change of leadership inevitably alter some, if not all, policies and programs advocated by the previous administration, the reason why most of the PSC's programs suffer from discontinuity.

Grassroots development programs such as the Batang Pinoy Games face the possibility of being scrapped once it fails to get the nod of the new PSC chair, Garcia cited.

"There should be continuity of programs at the top. A change in leadership has the tendency to change policies and programs different from the previous administration," said Garcia.

He is proposing a six-year term for PSC officials, pointing out that officials can plan more effectively over a longer period of time. *June Navarro*

Wind Blown, Silver Story sparkle at Santa Ana

By Edwin Villanueva

WIND Blown and Silver Story, last year's most dominating local gallopers, came back from long layoffs but showed no rustiness at all in topping their respective races yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Running for the first time under the colors of the Esguerra stable, Wind Blown walloped the field in the Chairman's Cup, while Silver Story continued his winning run by ruling the Commissioner's Cup.

Wind Blown gave P270,000 to Hermie Esguerra, who bought the massive colt from Sandy Javier right after losing to the late Phenomenal in the Millennium Open last December.

Silver Story's owner, Patrick Uy, also got the same amount as the grey colt upped his string of major race victories to seven.

While the Chairman's Cup showed Wind Blown's domination of the older division, the Commissioner's Cup gave the *kareristas* a preview of the coming Triple Crown series among three-year-olds.

Gold Edition finished five lengths behind Wind Blown who timed 1:42 in the one-mile event held in honor of former Philracom chief Augusto "Ochie" Santos.

Third was Materiales Fuertes, then came Bound to Be, Cougar, High Roller and Hazmoore, who came in under the wire limping.

Silver Story encountered a game Mr. Purao but was simply too much in the run home to prevail by three lengths in the 1,500-meter contest which was negotiated in 1:36.

Third placer was Speed Master followed by Zeus, Sky Hawk, Lord of All, Regalberto and Sovereignty.

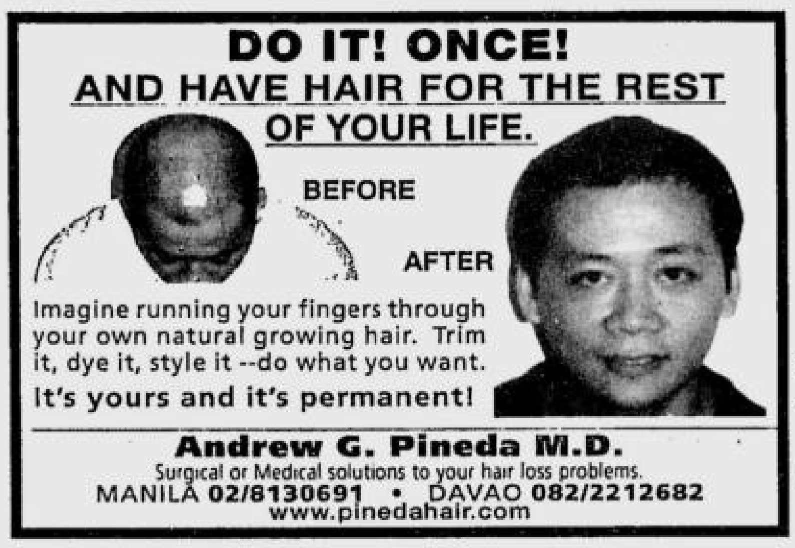
SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA - The Honda Classic, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Welch's / Circle K Championships, Final Round at 4:30 p.m. (r-tom. at 3 a.m.) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—Big 10 Tournament, First Round at 8:30 a.m., AT&T Big East Tournament Championship at 10:30 a.m. (r-tom. at 1 a.m.), ACC Tournament Championship at 11 p.m. on ESPN



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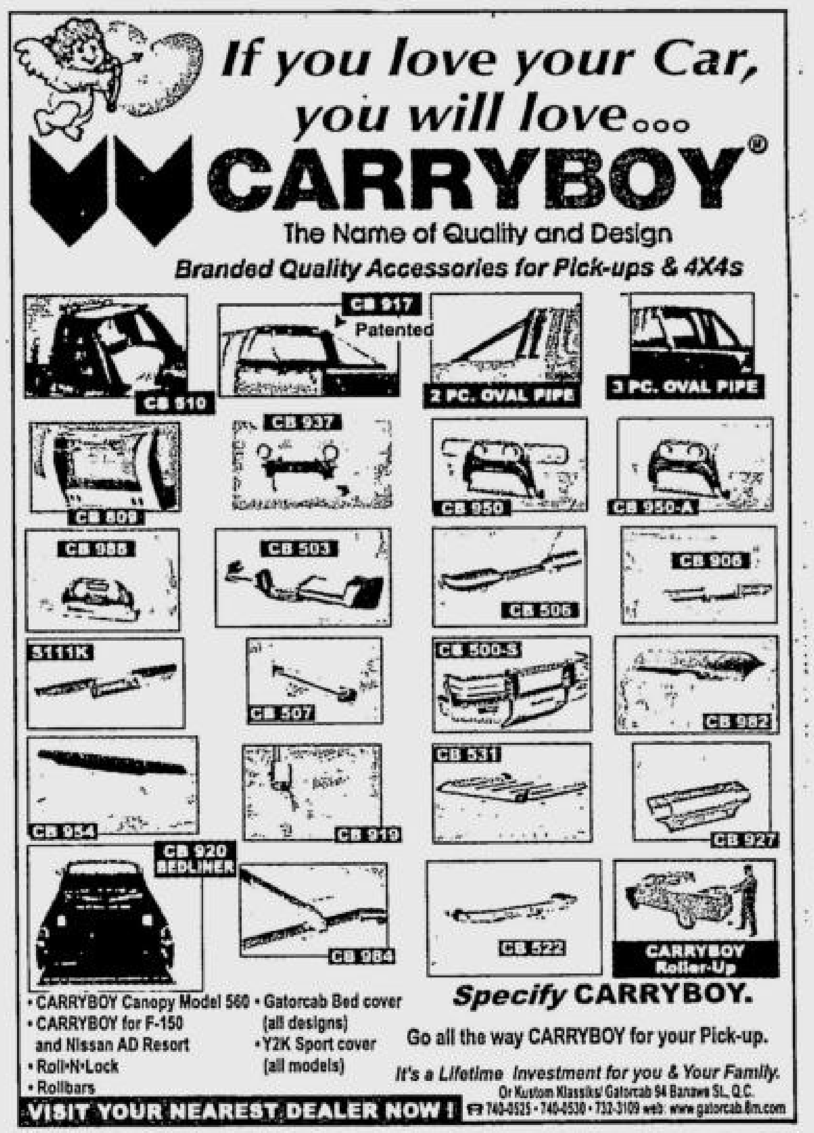

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In fact, the couple belongs to the pioneer batch of international roamers. "That time, calling Manila with my cellphone when out of the country made me feel like a world-class business person," he adds. "And once, I had to use the hotel's business service to fax the office some memos while in Paris. Imagine, the cost was equivalent to an overnight stay!" Marilou adds. Now, they can do this through their Globe Handyphone. Thus, knowing they can do more than just make calls afforded them a sense of wellness.

With over a hundred international roaming destinations around the world, the Koas are always within reach as they travel, which they do several times a year. "We get to watch over the kids and close the best transactions while away from home and office," Johnlu attests.

Aside from having their unique technological needs met, the Koas are afforded preferential treatment as Globe Platinum Cardholders. "I have a spare SIM in my wallet, which I keep with my credit cards. So no matter what happens to my phone, I won't be totally lost," enthuses Marilou.

"Our past experiences with Globe and all the technology it introduced makes us confident that if there's anything new, Globe Handyphone will adopt it for all its subscribers," she concludes.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Vendor admits killing 11-year-old boy in QC A26

'Cops' gun down two in Pasig bar

Owner, guard slain; 2 customers hurt

By Agnes E. Donato

INTRODUCING themselves as policemen, four armed men yesterday morning went into a shooting binge in a Pasig City bar killing two men, including the bar owner, and injuring two other people.

Killed were Pulang Ginto Pub House owner Roberto Jacob, 41, of Taytay, Rizal, and security guard Danilo Palmo, 43, of Barangay Manggahan, Pasig, according to SPO3 Mario Garcia.

Both died from gunshot wounds in the chest and were pronounced dead on arrival at the Pasig City General Hospital about 1:30 a.m.

Bullets grazed Marijane Alas-as, 21, of Acasia Extension, Pasig and Rodolfo Reyes, 31, of Barangay Rosario, Pasig, both customers of the bar on East Bank Road, Manggahan, Floodway—Alas-as on the elbow and Reyes on the back of the head.

Initial investigation showed that Reyes, Palmo and Alas-as were seated inside the establishment about 1 a.m. yesterday when four armed men, drinking beer at a nearby table, stood up and introduced themselves as law enforcers, then began firing at them at close range.

The gunmen fled on board a taxi that was waiting for them.

SPO3 Garcia said police have yet to find any leads or information on the identities of the suspects.

"There is also no clear motive behind the shooting," Garcia said. "There is no evidence so far, but we are not erasing the possibility that the suspects may have had a personal grudge against one of the victims."

He also ruled out the possibility that the suspects were policemen and pointed out that they were in casual attire, not in proper uniform. He said three of the suspects were in their early 20s.

Pasig police found two spent shells and slugs of a .45 pistol at the crime scene.

'Bayaning Third World' is Star Awards hero

By Alex Y. Vergara

A YEAR after it impressed the country's film critics, "Bayaning Third World" scored big again with members of the local movie press, bagging six of 17 awards at stake, including best picture, in Saturday night's 17th Star Awards for Movies.

The four-hour affair held at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City signaled the start of this year's awards season. Vilma Santos, Richard Gomez, Lorna Tolentino and Eric

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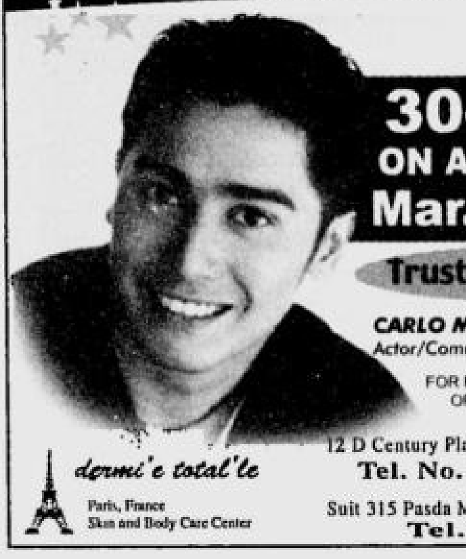

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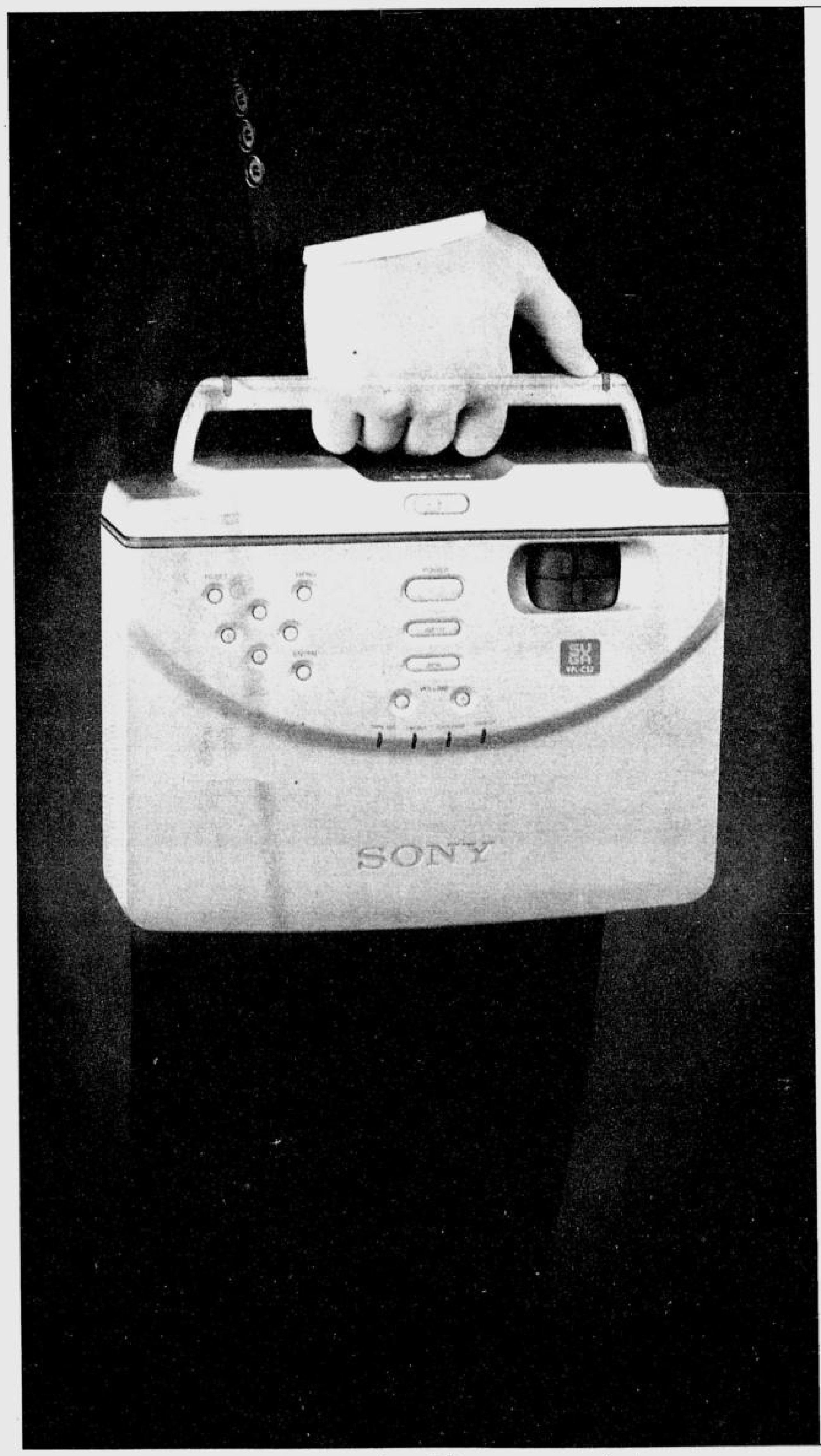

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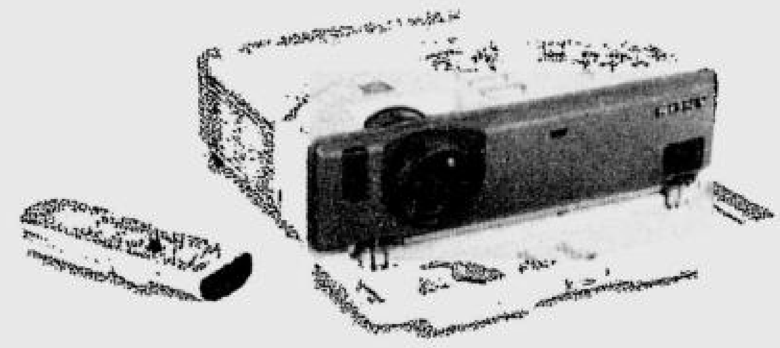

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Security guards shoot 2 loiterers

TWO drunken men loitering outside a subdivision were shot dead by security guards in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning.

Killed were Elias Galindez, 32, of Western Bicutan, Taguig, and Noel Canuel, 24, a stay-in employee at the Corinthian Garden Homes, according to Insp. Efren Jugo, chief of the Mandaluyong police Criminal Investigation Division.

Jugo said Isidro Gobongan, 29, of San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City; and Jaime de la Cruz, 38, and Efren Jolo, 44, both of Sta. Cruz, Manila City, were placed behind bars, while a fourth suspect, Arsenio Rodriguez, is still at large.

The four suspects are facing two counts of homicide.

Investigation showed that Gobongan was guarding a food stall below the Ortigas-Edsa flyover when he saw Canuel, who was apparently drunk. Police said Gobongan thought Canuel was planning to steal from the food stall.

The guard confronted Canuel and they argued. Canuel left but returned minutes later, accompanied by Galindez and another man, police said.

The three men beat up Gobongan until three other guards arrived, resulting in a rumble, police said. Gobongan and Rodriguez fired their shotguns at Canuel and Galindez, hitting both in the chest.

Canuel and Galindez died while being brought to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center, police said.

Agnes E. Donato

Vendor admits killing 11-year-old boy in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE INTOXICATING fumes of rugby killed Charlie Dave Tud, the 11-year-old boy whose battered body was found beside a Quezon City creek on Saturday.

Yesterday, police said vegetable vendor Venus Venus, 19, admitted that he was under the influence of the substance when he viciously beat up Tud, who suffered gaping wounds in the forehead and at the nape and bruises all over the body.

Police arrested Venus and his older brother Lordito, 20, of Purok 1 Luzon Avenue, Barangay Culiat and charged them with murder for the killing of Tud late Friday afternoon, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda.

But the older Venus denied participation in the vicious beating of Tud, who was their neighbor.

He said that he was looking for his brother when witnesses saw him under the bridge in Talipapang Gala in Barangay Culiat about 7 p.m. Friday. He said that because of the darkness, he stayed there for only five minutes.

Witnesses earlier told police that the Venus brothers were with Tud beside the creek under the bridge the night the boy was killed. They said the Venuses were sniffing rugby.

Even when the younger Venus owned up to Tud's killing, he also blamed the boy.

"He was irritating," Venus told the **Inquirer** from his detention cell in Camp Karingal in Quezon City. "I easily got mad at him because I was high on rugby."

He said he was sniffing rugby under the bridge about 5 p.m. Friday when Tud arrived and started throwing stones at him.

"I was even patient with him because I did not immediately strike back," Venus said.

"I did not know why he went down there in the first place," he added. "That place is off-limits to children."

He said what really angered him was when Tud began to douse him with dirty water from the creek. He said he blew his top and went after the boy, whom he then punched and kicked.

He said he took a rock and repeatedly pounded Tud with it.

He said Tud fought back, but he couldn't really see the boy "because it was dark in there."

He said that after he killed Tud, he wandered around the neighborhood for several hours and went home about 3 a.m.

" I did not know what to do," he said.

Venus said he only inhaled rugby and went to the creek the afternoon he killed Tud to retrieve a small amount of the substance, which he had left there when he attended his older brother's birthday party on Wednesday.

The brothers were arrested in their house about 4 p.m. Saturday. They were charged with murder before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Cop kills Navotas man who attacked him and pa

By Christian V. Esguerra

A ROOKIE policeman shot dead a man who he said had stabbed him and his father in Navotas early yesterday morning, police said.

Noel Malasalabang, 34, of Fatima Street, Leongson Extension, Barangay San Roque, Navotas, was shot in the head by PO1 Ronnie Desacula Jr. of the San Juan police at 1:45 a.m. yesterday, said desk officer SPO1 Milo Tengson.

Malasalabang and an unidentified companion were accosted by Desacula and his father for staying inside the policeman's jeepney, which was parked in front of the policeman's house on Champaca Street in Barangay San Roque, according to initial investigation by PO3 Alex Hermogino.

Desacula suspected that Malasalabang and his companion meant to steel his jeep. The policeman had previously lost a vehicle, SPO1 Tengson said.

When Desacula and his father asked Malasalabang and his companion to get off the jeep, Malasalabang pulled out a knife and stabbed the policeman in the left chest and the older Desacula in the forehead, investigation showed.

Before Malasalabang could stab the policeman again, Desacula pulled out his service firearm, a .9-mm pistol, and shot the man once in the head, police said.

Malasalabang's companion escaped.

Investigators later learned that Malasalabang and his companion were just hiding in the jeep, waiting to confront a neighbor.

Manny Pacquiao dream card in Kidapawan

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE SEARCH for the site of Manny Pacquiao's next defense of his World Boxing Council International super bantamweight crown against a Thai challenger is over. One phone call did it on Friday.

The venue will be Kidapawan, an excited Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato told the INQUIRER.

Well, there's no disputing now who's the hottest boxing property in town. Pacquiao readily laid claim to that distinction following the horrendous fall and dethronement of Malcolm Tuñacao as WBC flyweight king in Thailand on March 2.

Before that, Tuñacao was the lone reigning Filipino world titleholder. Actually, Pacquiao was already the biggest crowd drawer here even before Tuñacao's defeat in the hands of an underrated Thai challenger.

For the record, the championship Pacquiao holds is for 122-pound contenders ranked 11th to 30th by the WBC.

But, despite that, you would often hear fight fans asking when Pacquiao would fight again. And you could easily sense these people's hunger for man-size action.

***

We can't blame these bloodthirsty spectators because Pacquiao, their idol, is a certified knockout artist.

The hotshot from Gen. Santos City can always make their day.

Pacquiao owns the hottest pair of hands last seen hereabouts in the days of Rolando Navarrete, also known as the Bad Boy from Dadiangas.

Just like Navarrete, Pacquiao is a devil-may-care operator inside the ring. He's always willing to take as much as he could dish out.

They have an apt phrase for it: throwing caution to the wind. So far, though, Pacquiao has proven both tougher and stronger than all his opponents of late.

He is also capable of picking himself up from the floor to proceed and finish off his foes.

Pacquiao, easily the people's fighter, is also a favorite of boxing promoters.

This is the main reason Gov. Piñol did not waste time when he learned that promoter Bebot Elorde was having a hard time looking for a venue for the WBC international champ's next outing. He placed that call on Friday.

***

Kidapawan, a temperate, tree-filled capital at the foot of the great Mt. Apo, should prove a perfect venue.

One bus ride and Pacquiao's rabid supporters in his native Gen. Santos could see their idol live, flashing his fists of fury.

Gov. Piñol, who's said to be still looking for a worthy challenger to his post in the May polls, has again found a perfect gift for his constituents.

At the same time, Piñol has also assured that Pacquiao diehards from all over the country would witness the special attraction on April 28.

"Of course, it will be shown on television on the same day," Piñol bared.

Piñol, more known as the fighting governor, said he plans to tap broadcaster Jay Sonza, with whom he had shared a boarding room during their college days in Manila, to market the Pacquiao card.

Gov. Piñol foresees a sell-out, although he'll most likely open the fight to his constituents, with only a few ringside seats reserved for sponsors and special guests.

It will be a triple WBC presentation, Gov. Piñol said, with at least two other Filipino fighters figuring in the main undercards where international titles will be staked.

To top it all, Piñol, on the prodding of this deadline beater, has agreed to do ringside commentary on the main bout.

***

One final request the able provincial chief executive readily acceded to was the inclusion of an exciting 19-year-old fighter in the Pacquiao card.

His name is Alfren Bulala, who scored a sensational fifth-round stoppage of former WBC flyweight king Medgoen 3-K Battery in Phichit, Thailand on March 2.

No, that big win by Bulala, who said he has decided to box in a bid to be reunited with his father and his siblings, did not totally assuage the shocking setback suffered by the feeble, gameless Tuñacao in the main card.

But Bulala's stunning win—achieved with a slamming right cross to the jaw of Medgoen, ranked fifth by the WBC—had lent the forlorn Tuñacao group, headed by fight manager Rex Wakee Salud, something cheerful to talk about.

It was only Bulala's ninth fight. He had lost only once, against another Thai who was a former world flyweight champion.

Bulala's discoverer, Leonel Lazarito of Bukidnon, said he picked up the boy from a bus terminal where he sold bottled drinking water to survive.

Lazarito said Bulala, who's expected to break into the WBC rankings this month, was abandoned by his father while still an infant. His mother, who got sick, was forced to leave him with a relative.

Bulala's mother is dead. But he has brothers and sisters whom he hopes to meet again.

The promising fighter also believes his father is still around. And he feels he would come to his dressing room one day, when he finally becomes a world champ.

63-year-old nabbed for shabu

DRUG traffickers have expanded their marketing arm to include senior citizens, whose increased participation in the illegal but lucrative trade had alarmed police.

In a buy-bust operation on Saturday, police arrested Amado San Antonio, 63, of Barracks Compound, Davila Street, Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, after he sold a small amount of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride to a policeman who posed as a buyer.

Insp. Martin Faed, deputy chief of the Makati Police Drug Enforcement Unit, said San Antonio, who is said to be suffering from tuberculosis, allegedly had been selling shabu for a living for two years now.

Police arrested San Antonio about 12:45 p.m. in his house and allegedly found on him six sachets of the illegal substance worth about P8,000.

"We've heard of his illegal activities a long time ago," said PO2 Lolito Quintana. "And we've tried to arrest him a couple of times before but he's slippery. Apparently, he had a lot of lookouts outside his home."

San Antonio said he peddled shabu so he could buy medicine for his ailment. He is now detained at the Makati police station and is facing charges of violation of Republic Act No. 6425 or the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Last August, narcotics agents arrested Emilio Guevarra, 70, and his wife Narcissa, 74, of San Francisco Street, Barangay Manuyo, Las Piñas for selling shabu.

Authorities found on the couple P12,000 worth of shabu and drug paraphernalia. They were released after posting a bail of P60,000.

Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio

Worker stabbed over game bet

INSTEAD of just losing money in a basketball game in Quezon City, a construction worker also lost his life in a fight with another player over the amount of the bet.

Rodelo Monares, of Kalinisan Extension, Commonwealth, Quezon City, died after Samuel Ilagan stabbed him in the neck Saturday night, said PO2 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Dino said Monares and Ilagan were playing basketball just before midnight at the FM Concrete Products Compound along Commonwealth Avenue when they failed to agree on how much money the loser would have to pay the winner.

Ilagan brought out a fan knife and lunged at Monares, PO2 Dino said. Ilagan fled with the weapon, he added.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, March 8, 2001
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Es C: 12, 14-16, 23-25**
Gospel: **Mt 7:7-12**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; and the door will be opened to him who knocks. Would any of you give a stone to your son when he asks for bread? Or give him a snake, when he asks for a fish? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets."

Commentary:

In God we live, move and have our being. Yet our day-to-day living frequently belies this fact. That is why Lent instills in us greater trust and love for God. We need to constantly discover God as the loving Parent, whose mind for us is nothing but our wellbeing. Only with such discovery can we follow the Golden Rule. For, it is God's Spirit in us who helps us to do this: to know what is right and be eager to do it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Indivisible obligation—An obligation is indivisible when it cannot be validly performed in parts, whatever may be the nature of the thing which is the object thereof. The indivisibility refers to the prestation and not to the object thereof. In the present case, the Deed of Sale supposedly conveyed the six lots to petitioner. The obligation is clearly indivisible because the performance of the contract cannot be done in parts, otherwise the value of what is transferred is diminished. Petitioners are therefore mistaken in basing the indivisibility of a contract on the number of obligors. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Nazareno v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 138842, October 18, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Woman going to church run over by fast bus

By Philip C. Tubeza

GRANDMOTHER Romana Sto. Domingo did not make it to church yesterday morning after a fast bus struck her in Quezon City.

Sto. Domingo, 71, a retired government worker and a resident of Bulacan Hills Street, Area B, Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, was on her way to the Kristong Hari church along Commonwealth Avenue when a Lucky Seven Transport Bus hit her, said PO3 Edgardo Talacay of the Central Police District Traffic Sector Five.

Bus driver Melchor Ganila, 29, of Phase 7, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, stopped to help Sto. Domingo but it was too late. The driver later surrendered to the authorities, PO3 Talacay added.

The accident happened around 6:30 a.m., according to the investigator.

Sto. Domingo was crossing Commonwealth Avenue when she saw a passenger jeepney driving fast toward her. She was able to avoid the jeep in time, PO3 Talacay said.

The bus hit Sto. Domingo and the impact threw her head-first onto the pavement.

Ganila tried to save her and brought her to the Far Eastern University hospital in Fairview. However, the woman was already dead when they reached the hospital, Talacay said.

Ex-cop gets 17 years for slaying colleague

By Agnes E. Donato

A FORMER police officer has been sentenced to 17 years imprisonment for killing a fellow policeman eight years ago in Taguig.

Efren Dangdang, 47, of Lower Bicutan in Taguig, was found guilty of homicide, according to Judge Jesus Bersamira of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

Bersamira also ordered the former Southern Police District member to pay the family of victim Jeffrey Largo P1.1 million.

In his eight-page decision, Bersamira said he lowered the charges from murder to homicide because "the qualifying circumstances of premeditation, treachery and taking advantage of superior strength lacked evidentiary support."

Dangdang had gone to the house of PO2 Lindon Dimaiwat to invite him to a drinking party. But Dimaiwat was asleep.

Largo, who was then 21 and a member of the SPD Special Action Force, introduced himself to Dangdang and suggested that the latter join his group instead, since they were all policemen.

According to witness Vicky Bolivar, a relative of Dimaiwat, Dangdang refused Largo's invitation and left.

Bolivar told the court that Largo then went to a neighbor's house to watch television and he saw Dangdang there. A few minutes later, Largo returned to Dimaiwat's house.

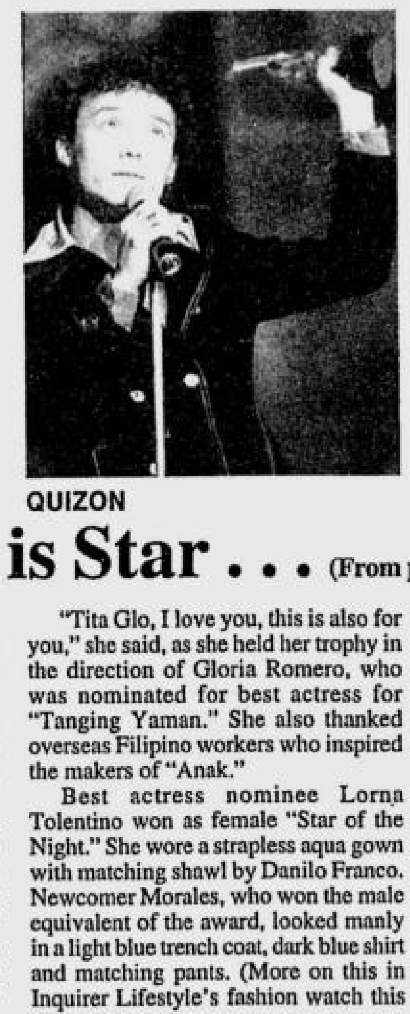
Dangdang followed him, this time with a gun tucked in his waist. In Dimaiwat's house, Dangdang pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and shot him twice in the back.

In his testimony, Dangdang said he learned that a friend of his was arrested by Largo's police unit and brought to Dimaiwat's house.

Dangdang said it was Largo who pulled out a gun when they were arguing. He said he and Largo were grappling for possession of the gun when the gun fired.

Agnes E. Donato

SANTOS



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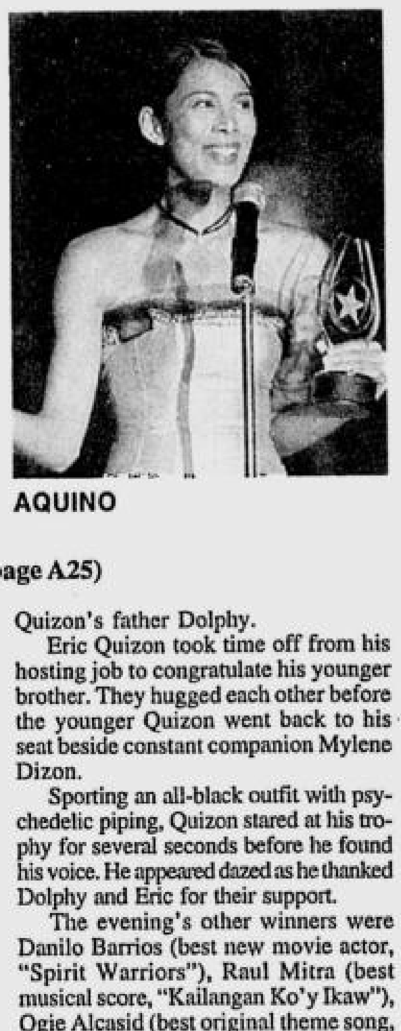


AQUINO

'Bayaning Third World' is Star . . . (From page A25)

Quizon were the night's hosts.

In last year's Gawad Urian, "Bayaning Third World" also bagged most of the major awards, including best picture. It won critical acclaim after it was shown within academic circles almost two years ago. It was released early last year in commercial theaters.

The documentary-style black and white feature has national hero Jose Rizal talking with a modern-day filmmaker and screenwriter hours before he is executed.

The film, produced by Cinema Artist Philippines, was also cited for its direction (Mike de Leon), original screenplay (Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. and Mike de Leon), cinematography (Ding Achacoso), production design (Roy Lachica) and sound (Noel Cruz Bruan). As usual, the reclusive De Leon was a no-show.

Regal Films' "Laro Sa Baga," a bold drama mirroring the depths of social decay among today's Filipinos, was the second most honored film with five awards: for Carlos Morales (actor), Angel Aquino (supporting actress), Yves Capulong (child performer), Edgardo Reyes (adapted screenplay) and Manette Dayrit (editing).

Two of Star Cinema's big-budget melodramas and among last year's top box-office hits won one award each. Newcomer Janette McBride was best new movie actress in "Tanging Yaman," while veteran actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos was best actress for playing a domestic helper in "Anak."

It was her fourth best actress trophy from the movie press, placing her at par with arch rival Nora Aunor. Santos last won two years ago for playing Leah Bustamante in the screen adaptation of Lualhati Bautista's "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa?"

"Tita Glo, I love you, this is also for you," she said, as she held her trophy in the direction of Gloria Romero, who was nominated for best actress for "Tanging Yaman." She also thanked overseas Filipino workers who inspired the makers of "Anak."

Best actress nominee Lorna Tolentino won as female "Star of the Night." She wore a strapless aqua gown with matching shawl by Danilo Franco. Newcomer Morales, who won the male equivalent of the award, looked manly in a light blue trench coat, dark blue shirt and matching pants. (More on this in Inquirer Lifestyle's fashion watch this Friday.)

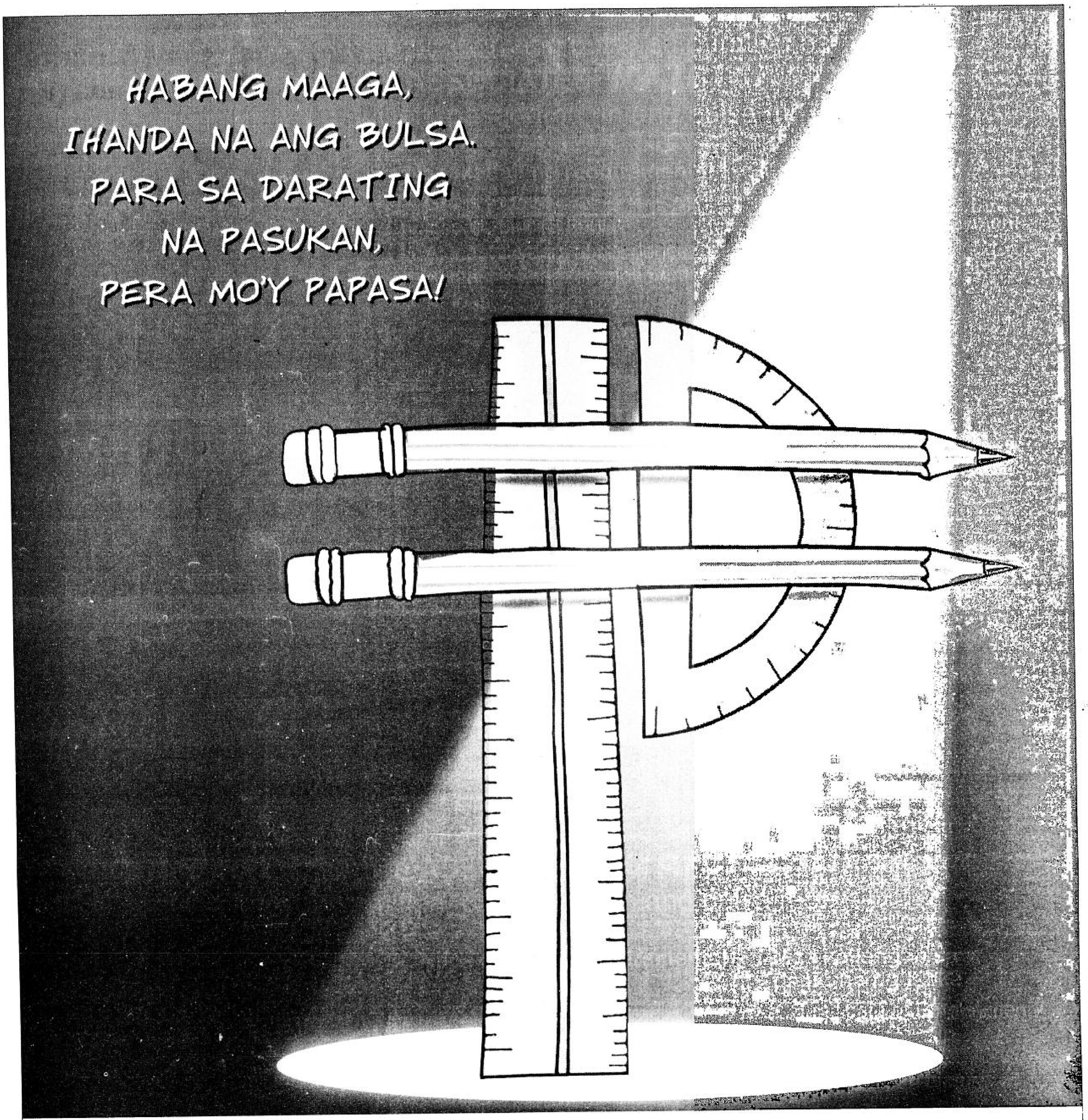
The evening's other big winner is Jeffrey Quizon, who played a budding homosexual in "Markova: The Comfort Gay." The film based on the true-to-life experience of Walter Dempsey Jr. also earned a best actor nomination for Quizon's father Dolphy.

Eric Quizon took time off from his hosting job to congratulate his younger brother. They hugged each other before the younger Quizon went back to his seat beside constant companion Mylene Dizon.

Sporting an all-black outfit with psychedelic piping, Quizon stared at his trophy for several seconds before he found his voice. He appeared dazed as he thanked Dolphy and Eric for their support.

The evening's other winners were Danilo Barrios (best new movie actor, "Spirit Warriors"), Raul Mitra (best musical score, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw"), Ogie Alcasid (best original theme song, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw") and Cristy Fermin, darling of the press.

Actress Boots Anson-Roa was honored with an Ulirang Artista award, the movie press version of the Academy's Lifetime Achievement award.



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11	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
4	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CAST AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
7	DTS	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
9	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	ULTRA SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
6	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)
1 LIVE SHOW
2 MS. CONGENIALITY
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 DRACULA 2000

GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)
1 ALMOST FAMOUS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 MS. CONGENIALITY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 MS. CONGENIALITY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 INNOCENCE (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 CAST AWAY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 DRACULA 2000 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 HANNIBAL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 LIVE SHOW in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 MS. CONGENIALITY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 HANNIBAL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARCH 16,17,23,24 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MS. CONGENIALITY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 HANNIBAL in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 DRACULA 2000 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ALMOST FAMOUS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 LIVE SHOW in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) DRACULA 2000
2 (SDDS) ALMOST FAMOUS
3 (DTS) MS. CONGENIALITY
4 GOLD (DTS) HANNIBAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MS. CONGENIALITY
6 GOLD (SDDS) TIGER LAND
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
8 [illegible] KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9 [illegible] HOSTAGE
10 [illegible] LIVE SHOW

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 BLONDIE
3 (DTS) LIVE SHOW
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) MS. CONGENIALITY
2 (DTS) KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 LIVE SHOW

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 DRACULA 2000
3 LIVE SHOW

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 HOSTAGE
3 LIVE SHOW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MS. CONGENIALITY
5 DRACULA 2000

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 RESERVE
3 HOSTAGE
4 LIVE SHOW
5 MS. CONGENIALITY
6 HANNIBAL
7 DRACULA 2000
8 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
1 ARAYY
2 RED PLANET
3 SUMMER HEAT
4 –
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
1 READY TO RUMBLE
2 GOSSIP
3 KANGKONG
4

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HOSTAGE
2 CAST AWAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 LIVE SHOW
3 DEMON GATE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
A DEMON GATE

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 BLONDIE
3

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) DRACULA 2000
2 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
3 WOMAN ON TOP
4 HOSTAGE
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 LIVE SHOW
7 (DTS) HANNIBAL
8 (SDDS) ALMOST FAMOUS
9 (DOLBY) MS CONGENIALITY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 HOSTAGE
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 HOSTAGE
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 (SDDS) MS. CONGENIALITY
5 LIVE SHOW
6 (DOLBY) DRACULA 2000
7 (DTS) HANNIBAL
8 TUSONG TWOSOME
9 TUHOG

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) MS. CONGENIALITY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 (SDDS) HANNIBAL
6 HOSTAGE
7 (DOLBY) DRACULA 2000
8 LIVE SHOW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 HOSTAGE
2 HANNIBAL
3 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME
4 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 (SDDS) DRACULA 2000
6 (DOLBY) LIVE SHOW
7 (DOLBY) MS CONGENIALITY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 LIVE SHOW

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson LIVE SHOW
Lords BODY SHOT
Jeanet LIVE SHOW

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 LIVE SHOW
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000
4 MS CONGENIALITY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 LIVE SHOW

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 DRACULA 2000
3 HOSTAGE
4 LIVE SHOW
5 MS CONGENIALITY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 HOSTAGE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 DRACULA 2000

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 HOSTAGE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 (DTS) DRACULA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 (DTS) LIVE SHOW
3 (DOLBY) DRACULA 2000
4 WOMAN ON TOP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.3276
1 (SDDS) KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 RESERVE
3 BLONDIE
4 (DTS) LIVE SHOW

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) DRACULA 2000
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS) LIVE SHOW
4 BLONDIE
5 HOSTAGE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 CAST AWAY
2 HOSTAGE
3 HANNIBAL

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 DRACULA 2000
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 HANNIBAL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HOSTAGE
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 LIVE SHOW
4 DEMON GATE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 (DTS) LIVE SHOW

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 HOSTAGE
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 FAMILY MAN
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 HOSTAGE
4 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 HOSTAGE
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 DRACULA 2000

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) HANNIBAL
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000
4 (DTS EX) WOMAN ON TOP

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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a special presentation

Toy Symphony, Mulatto sing at Padi's Mindave

TOY Symphony performs every Wednesday this month at the new Padi's Point Restaurant and Bar in Mindanao Avenue corner Congressional Avenue, Quezon City.

Led by talented vocalist Elke Saison, sister of singer Ella Mae Saison, Toy Symphony sings popular R&B, pop and acid jazz music.

On Fridays, Ascension band takes centerstage, with the Dyevet band as front act.

On March 17, Saturday, Fat Session performs at Padi's Mindave, while the famous Mulatto band topbills the March 24 grand opening free concert with other top bands.

On March 31, the award-winning Parliament Syndicate returns to Padi's Mindave.

Other regular bands performing at Quezon City's newest entertainment center, restaurant and bar are: Great Divide doing acoustic music on Sundays, K.O. Jones on Mondays, Red Sector A on Tuesdays, Pop Cycles on Thursdays and the talented Ascension band on Fridays.

For inquiries, call 453-0080/ 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

Joey March events

IT'S GOING to be another exciting month for Joey@92.3 FM as it rolls out the red carpet for a fabulous March.

After the "Two Lips on Tulips" promo with a trip to Amsterdam and the advance screening of "Billy Elliot," the station premieres the Golden Globe Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated "Almost Famous," 7:30 tomorrow night, March 13 at Glorietta 4 Cinema 6.

"Almost Famous" stars Patrick Fugit, Billy Crudup, Jason Lee and Frances McDormand. The premiere is made possible by Close-Up.

The downpour of the coolest rhythms continues this March with "Joey's Acoustic Nights," featuring Acoustic Jive. The hip bar tour goes to Art Avenue in Pearl Drive, Ortigas on March 16, 23 and 30, courtesy of Aegon Insurance.

Every Saturday of March, Joey treats caffeine lovers to a different kind of brew with "Joey's Café Tour @ Figaro."

Make it a soothing afternoon outing as Joey brings out a string and flute ensemble to serenade you at Shangri-La Plaza Mall (March 17), SM Megamall (March 24) and Festival Mall (March 31).

For the best rhythms and more blockbuster events, keep your dial tuned to Joey@92.3 FM.

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ERMITA
536-7809-14
1. MS. CONGENIALITY
2. HANNIBAL
3. KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4. HOSTAGE
5. LIVE SHOW
6. ALMOST FAMOUS
7. DRACULA 2000

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IMUS
(046)875-3838
1. HANNIBAL
2. LIVE SHOW
3. DRACULA 2000
4. MS. CONGENIALITY
5. KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6. HOSTAGE

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453
1. FAMILY MAN
2. 102 DALMATIANS
3. TUSONG TWOSOME
4. PROOF OF LIFE
5. HOSTAGE
6. NURSE BETTY

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALMOST FAMOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MS CONGENIALITY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	GATAS / MY PRIVATE TEACHER
ODEON	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ODEON-2	MS CONGENIALITY
ROBEN	HOSTAGE
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	LIVE SHOW
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR-2	HOSTAGE
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITYL
CINEMA-2	ALMOST FAMOUS
ÇAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	LIVE SHOW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-6	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-7	BLONDIE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-3	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-4	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-5	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-6	MISS CONGENIALITY

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Ms. CONGENIALITY
(PG-13 / RT 1:47)
Comedy
Sandra Bullock
Benjamin Bratt
Michael Caine

March 12-Monday/13-Tuesday

6:05 PM - Ms. Congeniality
8:30 PM - Ms. Congeniality
10:50 PM - Ms. Congeniality

Watch out for the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

LRP Foundation Inc. Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo St., Makati City Tel. No. 751-20-10 Fax 892-3449
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ALAS SINGKO Y MEDYA

Buong Linggo
5:30 am

Bagong Umaga

Gumising na may panibagong ngiti kasama ang bagong barkada. Busugin ang inyong tiyan sa almusal na sagana sa balita't impormasyon, katatawana't kasiyahan kasama sina MON ILAGAN, CHERI MERCADO, CHERYL COSIM, PIA GUANIO at BOBBY YAN.

BALITANG Kris

Lunes- Biyernes
5:30 pm

Bagong Kris

Ang bagong kapamilya ng ABS-CBN News,
narito at mananaliksik sa kung
saan-saang kasuluksulukan ng bansa.
ng mga balitang kakaiba at dito lamang sa
atin makikita. Ang Queen of Daytime Talk,
si Bb. KRIS AQUINO.
Bagong bihis.
Bagong anyo.
Bagong kabalitaan.

Talk TV

Lunes- Biyernes
10:30 am

Bagong Bihis

Sina TINTIN BERSOLA at JULIUS BABAO ay nasa panibagong entablado na! Kasama sina RYAN AGONCILLO at JANETTE McBRIDE, sumali sa maagang chikahan, debatehan, tawana't bidahan. Huwag pahuhuli sa kuwentuhan tungkol sa mga isyung kapanapanabik --- pulitika, pelikula, romansa at marami pang iba.

TV PATROL

Lunes- Biyernes
6:00 pm

Bagong Team

Ang pinakamatatag na news program sa bansa ay lalong pinagtibay upang maghatid ng mga nagbabagang balitang mahalaga sa inyo. Ang buong puwersa ng ABS-CBN News ay patuloy na papatrol kasama ang mga tapat na tagapag-ulat ----
KORINA SANCHEZ,
HENRY OMAGA-DIAZ
at ALJO BENDIJO.

Camila

Lunes- Biyernes
11:30 am

Bagong Sinta

Siya ang pinakabagong iibigin ninyo tuwing umaga. Subaybayan ang natatangi niyang ganda sa telenovelang siguradong aakit sa inyo.

MAGANDANG TANGHALI BAYAN

Lunes- Sabado
12 nn

Bagong Gimik

Ang buong ka-tropa sa pananghalian at ang paboritong pantawid uhaw, palinitin ang inyong bulsa sa tag-araw. Limpak-limpak na salapi't mamahaling hi-tech gadgets ang ipamimigay araw-araw!

ABS-CBN HEADLINES

Lunes- Biyernes
10:30 pm

Bagong Gabi

Sa pagtatapos ng araw, hindi tumitigil ang pagkalap ng mga balitang siguradong pag-uusapan kinabukasan. Kunin ang pinakahuling kaganapan sa bansa mula sa koponan ng mga mahuhusay at maaasahang tagapagbalita, sa pangunguna ni KAREN DAVILA.

ABS-CBN

Sama-Summer together

The Centex dream accompanied by the music of Maestro Ryan

By Leah Salterio

KNOWN as a musical genius, he earned raves for the many musicals that he did, including "Katy!" and "Alikabok." He has done winning musical scores for critically acclaimed and award-winning films. And many of his songs have become timeless hits.

On March 16, maestro Ryan Cayabyab works for "The Music of Dreams," a concert for the benefit of Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex).

The show will feature top artists who have willingly lent their names to the fundraiser, including Pops Fernandez, Regine Velasquez, Basil Valdez, Jaya, Lani Misalucha, Agot Isidro, Jolina Magdangal, Cris Villonco, Carol Banawa, Ralion Alonso, JM Rodriguez, Piolo Pascual and Ella Mae Saison.

Also in the show are theater talents who have crossed over to pop such as Audie Gemora, Anna Fegi, Bituin Escalante and RJ Rosales. Other performers are Isay Alvarez, Dianne de la Fuente and Michael Williams.

JAYA with the Centex kids, who will also be featured in the concert.

"It's a joy to work with big name professionals in the entertainment industry," Ryan says. "When the artists learned about the mission of Centex, they didn't think twice about participating in the show. We were touched by their concern."

Concept

Unlike usual concerts that are a string of solo performances and duets, "The Music of Dreams" will focus on children and will have artists doing new numbers, backed by the 54-member Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ryan drew up the concept with his wife Emy Punzalan-Cayabyab, and Trumpets forerunners Audie Gemora and Luna Inocian.

"I worked on the concept really hard and refined it for a year," Ryan says. "Just to have an orchestra in a show means it's a grand production. From the overture to the closing numbers, it will be about children."

Lisa Macuja will dance with young ballerinas. Violinist Coke Bolipata will play with the Pundaquit Strings. Regine will sing with young belters Carol Banawa, Cris Villonco and the Bataoke kids who, like her, were once regular amateur singing contestants.

The original members of Smokey Mountain who have become solo artists—Geneva Cruz, Jeffrey Hidalgo, James Coronel and Tony Lambino—will perform with the new pop quartet Kaya, whose members are all protégés of Ryan.

All the songs were arranged by Gerard Salonga, Lorrie Illustre and Ed Nepomuceno.

Vignettes on the life of Centex children will be shown in between the musical numbers to deliver the message that every child has a right to full development. The Centex kids will also be part of the production numbers.

For the concert, Ryan, together with movie director Joey Reyes, wrote a new song aptly titled "Kung Ako'y Pagbibigyan," to be carried out by Isa Fabregas, Hans Dimayuga, Cris Villonco, the Bataoke kids and Kaya.

Noted TV director Johnny Manahan will direct the concert.

"It will be a fast-paced show with no lull so as not to bore the audience," Ryan assures. "The spiels are shorter. I'm very happy to work with Mr. M (Manahan). He understands my requirements which makes work a lot easier."

The concert will be aired as an Easter TV special on ABS-CBN, a co-presenter of the project.

Fundraiser

"The Music of Dreams" is the first big fundraiser of Centex, which dreams of having 100 schools around the country. With the PICC concert, Centex aims to raise more than a million pesos, which will be used as seed money for another school.

The first Centex school was sponsored by Ayala Land Inc. It opened in Tondo in 1998. After three years, Globe Telecom, a major sponsor of the concert, recently opened another campus in Banan, Batangas.

Centex offers quality education to bright students from the marginalized sectors of society. The curriculum is comparative to those of the best private schools in the country.

Ryan got involved with Centex after he was invited to a reception where he saw the Ayala Land mission through a video show, where the music used was "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes," from the Disney movie "Cinderella."

PIANO MAN Cayabyab is touched by the concern of other artists who are also part of "The Music of Dreams."

Ryan decided to lend his name to the project and pledged to give any kind of assistance he could offer.

Children, he says, "can never fulfill their dream if they are not given the proper tools or the chance. If you give the child a chance, he will grow up to be a successful and fulfilled individual."

Pops Fernandez, who will host the show, will also sing "A Dream is the Wish Your Heart Makes."

Gifted man, funny man

By Joven S. Joya

FINALLY, stand-up comic Leonard Obal is laughing his way to the bank, thanks to his wacky partnership with Allan K. in the long-running stage play "Si Nura at Velma."

Leonard plays Velma to Allan's Nura in the riotous show that was born in 1991, toured the country, went to Hong Kong and Australia, and is still playing by invitation these days.

But even without good friend Allan K., Leonard can still pack 'em in. In fact, most of whatever material things he has now, he says, all came from his solo shows.

Hear this: He moves around in a chauffeur-driven car or van, has his own house and lot, and says he has already saved some for his retirement. *Laban ka?* (Can you top that), to borrow one from his treasury chest of witty repartees.

Leonard does not lack for bookings. He was up to his neck with commitments in the merry season of company parties last Christmas. But whether it's Christmas or not, his services are in great demand. Therefore, it's hard to track him these days; if he's found, he's most likely rehearsing for or actually doing a one-man show. If not that, he's surely still asleep, letting energy spill on him for tonight's or tomorrow's show after last night's enervating performance.

It's not only Gary V. who's pure energy when performing. Leonard's act, by comparison, is more tiring. He finishes his show, usually lasting for two hours, without rest.

Busy granny

"Maraming raket ang lola mo ngayon," he says of himself. *"Kailangang samantalahin* (Your granny has a lot of work. I should make hay while the sun shines). I'm not getting any younger anymore; I have to save for my retirement."

Promoters who get his services as a stand-up comic are always assured of getting a first-class performance from him. A natural comedian, he also has an exceptionally good singing voice. Best of all, he has the energy to bring what always develops as a thoroughly enjoyable show to an extended conclusion. Not only does he rehearse his script, his dance number and his songs to perfection, he also prepares his body.

"I don't go out at night if I have a big show coming up," he says. "For at least a week, I sleep and rest a lot if I'm not rehearsing or meeting with producers."

Unlike the present crop of sing-along masters who equates vulgarity, cheap sex talk, and mindless roasting of guests with humor, Leonard commands attention with pure talent alone. He's mesmerizing enough with his clear, powerful voice. When he delivers his spiels, both scripted and otherwise, he sends even the most conservative in the audience nearly doubling up in laughter.

Sing-along masters, some of whom are horribly tactless and openly and shamelessly solicit for tips in the guise of joking, can learn a lot by watching Leonard perform. They don't have to demean themselves and their singing guests to make the audience laugh. Witty remarks can be enough. Take it from one of their more popular brothers—or sisters—in the industry.

More surprises

Among his best-loved acts is his beauty pageant number Sample: "Rat-tat-tat-ta! Rat-tat-tat-ta! Miss Iraq!" Another: He screams at the top of his voice, "Ahhhhh! Ahhhhh! Miss Surigao!"

Variety must have been his middle name. He dances out the disco numbers he belts and—this one is hard to beat—he can sing like Sylvia La Torre, Armida Sigion-Reyna, Luciano Pavarotti, Darius Razon, Atang de la Rama, Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma and Ric Manrique.

The surprise doesn't end there. He can do their voices in one song or sing their signature songs a la Yoyoy Villame. As well, he can impersonate Ted Failon, Rey Langit and Tiya Dely.

So funny is this funnyman that when he accidentally trips, which is often, and he blurts out unprintables, the audience still thinks it's part of the show.

"Truth is," he says, *"malabo talaga ang mata ng lola mo* (The truth is, your granny's eyesight is really bad)," says he while pulling up his pants to show scars on his shins. "It's normal during my shows that I accidentally trip or run smack into stage props or equipment. *Mabubunggo at mabubunggo talaga ako* (I always find myself bumping into things)."

Overseas worker

It helps that long before he charted a course in stand-up comedy, Leonard from 1976 to 1983 attended acting workshops, did stage plays for Peta and took voice lessons under writer-director and INQUIRER Saturday Special editor Nestor Torre ("Please *lang, pakisulat.* Nestor encouraged me to pursue a career in entertainment. He believed in my talent so much that I gained self-confidence. *Nasaan na ba siya ngayon?"*), Soxy Topacio, Joel Lamangan, Atek Jacinto, Tillie Moreno. Later on, Bernardo Bernardo tutored him in singing and acting.

Unable then to see even just a hint of a future in show biz, he joined the ranks of overseas workers at a time when it was most profitable to do so. From 1985 to 1988, the Letran management graduate from Labo, Camarines Norte worked as secretary at a trading firm in Saudi Arabia.

A nightmarish incident with him as the principal figure forced his employers to book him on the earliest available flight from Riyadh to Manila. Leonard's friends say it was an attempt to dispose of the most compelling witness that might put them behind bars or cause them to literally lose their heads to the executioner's sword.

"In short, I was repatriated," he says. He didn't say what the hellish experience was, only that it was enough for him to say that it could break the spirit of many.

His didn't fall apart, although he emerged from the sad Riyadh caper shocked. "Prayers helped me cope and made me a stronger person," he says.

Transformed

Getting encouragement as well as free lessons in acting-singing from the versatile Bernardo Bernardo, Leonard's first stint after Saudi Arabia was as singer-host at My Father's Mustache on M. H. del Pilar in Malate in the year of his homecoming. There, the Poca Shells group was born, a trio of comic singers made up of Alan K., Bernardo and Obal. From Father's Mustache, he moved on to Studio Bar, then to Manila Manor and finally to Andrew Real's Library also in Malate.

It was Real who conceptualized "Si Nura at si Velma" and was thus instrumental in transforming Leonard and Allan K. into what they are now.

Curiously, at the height of the popularity of the play, Leonard chose to take a low profile, embracing the beliefs of born-again Christians and devoting most of his time to attending a bible school from 1992 to 1995. He left the school, he says, with a bible diploma and a radically changed outlook in life. "I became more giving and more understanding of others."

Star still rising

He once again entered show biz, resumed his hosting and singing and even appeared in two movies, Lamangan's "Bulaklak ng Maynila" and Mel Chionglo's controversial "Sibak."

Meanwhile, "Si Nura at si Velma" kept on playing due to insistent public demand and Leonard' star kept on rising as well.

ERIC QUIZON with Leonard.

From a semi-regular appearance in the noontime show "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7, he now has a regular TV show of his own, co-hosting IBC 13's "Lunch Break" from noon to 1 p.m. with the underrated Joy Viado, Earl Ignacio and Dang Cruz. He does shows regularly at The Library, and at Another World on Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat) every Wednesday.

"I want to be in the business of making people happy for as long as I can," he says. *"Habang malakas pa ang lola mo, sige nang sige* (Your granny will keep on working as long as she's strong)."

Three cheers for *lola* the survivor.

THE BIG O. Leonard swears he'll make people laugh for as long as he has got the strength.

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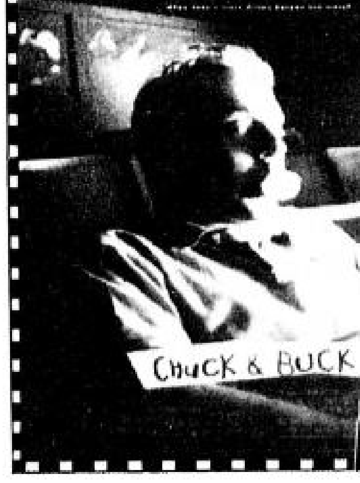

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

If Noynoy and I are talking again, can my mom Cory and Uncle Danding be far behind?

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

AT 5:30 p.m. today, "Balitang Kris" premieres on ABS-CBN, Channel 2. My first episode will forever be meaningful because it paved the way for my brother **Noynoy**, congressman of the 2nd district of Tarlac, and I to have our first conversation in almost seven years.

My mom was with us during this special occasion for our family. Our interaction occurred in our home province of Tarlac while we were taping together with hundreds of Noy's constituents in four different towns in his district. We shot on location to show his numerous projects, new classrooms and libraries, kilometers of concretized roads, a new slaughterhouse, to name a few, completed during his first term as congressman, plus we discussed his goals vis-à-vis our parents' legacies.

We took our first step on the road to a full "reconciliation" because we were both ready. Our mom never tried to force our hands. Time and our own individual growth in emotional maturity made it possible for both of us to let go of some of our pride.

My mom said that what happened between Noy and me was an answered prayer for her, and she said it was one of her happiest and most fulfilling moments as a parent. I'm happy that we've finally let go of a lot of the useless bitterness in our hearts.

At 30, I've come to appreciate that families are meant to be united, not divided.

Just an afterthought. Since they're in their 60s now, do you think a reconciliation between my mom and her first cousin **Danding Cojuangco** is now possible? I know that my mom is open to the idea. I just don't know if my uncle is.

Greater miracles have occurred. Who knows, maybe their time has also come.

* * *

Pops (Fernandez) gave me a copy of "The Rules II—More Rules to Live and Love By." This is a follow-up to the hugely successful "The Rules," which was basically a guide written by **Ellen Fein** and **Sherrie Schneider** regarding the "ideal" behavior of women when it comes to our interaction with men.

Chapter 13 of "The Rules II" is titled "Don't Tell the Media About Your Love Life and Other Rules for Celebrities."

We were laughing hysterically while reading this part together, mostly because we acknowledged that what was written truly made so much sense (This book should have been around 10 years ago, and I'd have been saved from a million missteps).

The chapter says some female celebrities delude themselves into believing that "some men are intimidated by their beauty, wealth or fame, and thus they have to exert extra effort to make the men feel that they are reachable," sometimes even going to the extent of making the "first move" (a mortal sin against "The Rules") in connecting or arranging a date.

"The Rules II" states the insightful nugget: "If a man is already too intimidated to ask you out, then he'd be even more intimidated to be in a relationship with you." Very true.

A really funny part of this chapter is when female celebrities are chastised for extolling the virtues of their constant date, boyfriend, fiancé or husband during interviews whether for the print media or talk show appearances. We were laughing at this because unfortunately all women, when in love, really do have the tendency to gush uncontrollably about their object of affection.

We have it worse because our *pagkakilig* isn't just confined to our female *barkada*, family members, classmates, and/or officemates, but the whole nation's consumption.

"Declaring your love on national television will not make him yours, scare other women away, or make him marry you." And, may I add, it's not an insurance policy either with regard to his being faithful.

Lastly, and closest to home, is the reminder that if the female celebrity is currently unattached, she shouldn't act "depressed or cynical" about love. Instead she should act "confident and happy" so that everyone watching TV or reading her interview will think that "any man would be lucky to have her."

Most important of all is to "give the impression that you're not worried about your love life." You are the value that you give yourself, and if you feel you're incomplete because you're partner-free, then others would view you in the same light, and this would further lessen your chances of having a meaningful relationship develop.

So from now on, I won't use any of my programs or this column as "therapy sessions." I will not be publicly despondent about the state of my love life. Neither will I discuss, even if I'm capable of doing so with nary a trace of bitterness, any of my past heartaches and failed relationships.

And most important of all, when the time comes that there is someone significant in my life, my standard reply when queried about the state of our relationship will be one-word adjectives like "great," "special" and "stable."

For how long will I manage to live by this new "mission statement?" I might just surprise all of you, including myself!

There are many more very entertaining chapters in "The Rules II." I recommend this book for all the women who are currently in the dating scene. Men should also read this book to see if the insights we're getting about them are accurate. It's a fun book for women to discuss, and it's sure to really stir up spirited opinions!

Telling juxtaposition of scenes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHY are local filmmakers so interested in the lives of live sex-show performers? From **Chito Roño**'s "Private Show" through **Tikoy Aguiluz**'s "Boatman" to **Joey Reyes**' current "Live Show" (and then some), we've been offered a surfeit of revealing scenes about their bare-all public performances and private pains.

Ostensibly, all this is supposed to be an indictment of the social system that forces impoverished youths to demean themselves in order to keep body and soul together. But, so many movies on the same theme or intent? Clearly, something else is going on here: simply said, sex to draw viewers into the theaters.

That must be why these movies' publicity thrusts appear to be at cross-purposes: One aspect says that the sexy films are artistic and relevant, while another stresses that their sex scenes are graphic, and are being shown "uncut."

So, these movies appeal to sex-film voyeurs and try to balance that shrewdly commercial thrust by pleading artistry and substance. This push me-pull you situation strains the credulity of both the sex-flick *aficionado and* the film buff alike.

These thoughts come to mind as we watch Reyes' "Live Show." Initially, the movie has a number of good things going for it:

Some of its characters and their inter-relationships are interesting; particularly the mother (**Daria Ramirez**) who turns her children into juvenile whores, the sex show performers who try in vain to give their daughter a "decent" family life, and the slut (**Klaudia Koronel**) with a foul mouth *and* a heart of gold.

Also, the movie's shots of the sex show performers in full public cavort are angled and blocked so we get nudity but not porno, indicating that unbridled sex is not this movie's sole cause for being.

But the movie is ultimately done in by the character of its narrator, one of Daria's children. The young man is a sex show performer, but he's completely unlike his companions because he's sex-oriented only when he's performing in a toro show.

Otherwise, he's the nicest person you could possibly imagine, brother, considerate towards his friends, etc. Despite the tawdriness of his trade, he has not at all been tainted by the filth and degredation around him. What an unreal character!

To make things even more tendentious, the narrator is made to be so talkative and wise, spouting eloquent "profundities" every now and then that don't sound believable coming from a relatively uneducated person like him.

If the narrator had been made more flawed and less eloquent, he could have fit in better with the movie's occasionally involving story of love and loss among society's "despised" down-and-outs.

The film effectively shows that a person's work does not define him. Some of its sex workers perform the most shocking acts, and yet they are also capable of loving and caring.

Another noteworthy insight is provided by a telling juxtaposition of scenes—one showing four sex-show performers in full pneumatic action, edited together with a second scene in which a female sex worker is viciously abused by three teenagers in a motel room.

The juxtaposition's point is that the real-life gang rape is more bestial than the sex show, which most people would consider the nadir of human behavior.

The impact of these and other points is not lost on viewers of "Live Show," would that some of its other aspects were as astutely focused.

TV treats

ON THURSDAY, March 15 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, **Arnold Schwarzenegger** takes an interstellar trip into madness in "Total Recall," part of "Oscar Fever," the movie channel's countdown to Oscars 2000. The film is directed by **Paul Verhoeven** and also topbills **Sharon Stone**.

Paolo's playground

WHEN Vergel O. Santos was news editor of the People's Journal in the '80s, he would, on weekends, bring to the editorial office his children, including a lanky little boy. After the long day's work, Vergel liked to put his feet up and strum his guitar and sing John Denver songs while the boy flitted among the reporters' desks but generally stayed out of the newsmen's way.

Today, Vergel is still writing, and editing, books and teaching others how to write. That boy, Paolo Santos, is now a lanky young man and he's not writing like his father.

Paolo, after taking up business economics at De La Salle University, decided he would rather sing and play the guitar. And, from what his father's fellow workers at the People's Journal could remember of Vergel's music, Paolo definitely sings and plays better than his father.

Paolo's playground is now the night places of Metro Manila where he performs five nights a week. He has quite a following, too, young professionals who tire of the loudness and boom of live bands and prefer his quiet, soothing, gentle music from decades past to the present, from pop ballads to folk and country and jazz to rock.

"I love what I'm doing and I'm making money, too," the young singer says.

His listeners apparently love what they hear, for they come in droves to listen to him—at Friends at St. Francis Square on Mondays, Aqua Zoo in Libis on Wednesdays, Gensan Restaurant on Jupiter Street in Makati on Thursdays, Art Avenue on Pearl Drive on Fridays, and Apocento in Intramuros on Saturdays.

"My mind is blank whenever I'm singing on stage," Paolo says during a break from his sets. "All I care about is the music."

His audience cares about the music, too, which they prefer to hear from Paolo Santos and his guitar.

SANTOS

Tootsie, Jamie perform at Robinson's malls

TOOTSIE Guevara is back on the recording scene with her latest album, "Sa Puso Ko."

Tootsie's fans will be enthralled anew with her power voice as she renders new cuts from this 12-track album that includes neo-romantic songs, as well as danceable beats by some of the country's top composers.

Catch Tootsie's live mall tours at Robinson's Place Imus on March 17, Robinson's Place Manila on March 23. All shows start 4 p.m.

The Robinsons Malls in cooperation with Star Records and Kameraworld present the series.

On March 16, Jamie Rivera goes on tour also at the Robinson's malls, with her third major release under Star Records, "Heal Our Land," a compilation of 12 inspirational songs and favorite liturgical music.

For more information, call 634-7197.

'KOOL KA LANG' IN BANGKOK

The cast of "Kool Ka Lang" shot their summer special for six days in Bangkok. The sitcom stars Raymart Santiago, Joey Marquez, Gloria Diaz, LJ Moreno, Dennis Padilla, Robert "Long" Mejia, Romy "Dagul" Pastrana and Mark Wilson. In the episode, Jack (Raymart), Mang Mags (Joey) and the whole gang joined a contest which qualifies them to go to Bangkok for the final round. One million baht is at stake, but first, they have to race against time and look for different chips where the clues are written. "Kool Ka Lang" airs Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. on GMA.

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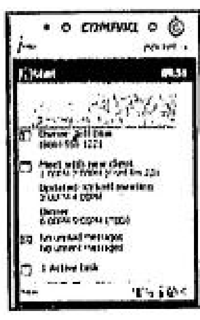

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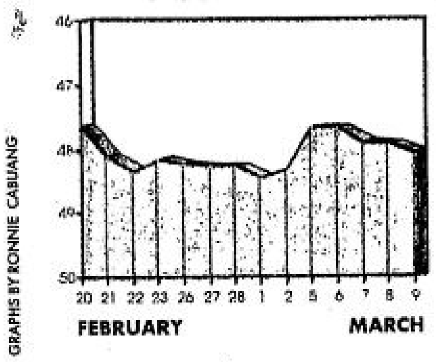

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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The US dollar was trading at 119.76 as of 5 p.m., March 9, 2001

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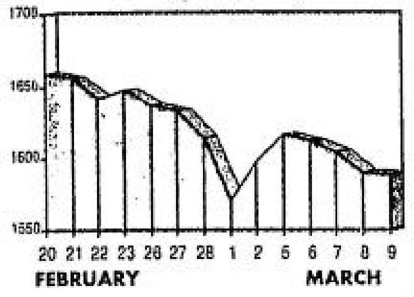
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to drop

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

LOCAL stocks are seen to drift sideways with a downward bias this week as concerns over the developments abroad continue to negate positive developments arising on the local front.

Analysts said big foreign fund managers have been staying out of the market despite the improving outlook—coupled by last week's affirmation of the Supreme Court of the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration—due to spillover jitters over the weakening US economy. *(See story on Page B6.)*

Lifting of secrecy law on forex deposits OKd

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

BANKS have agreed to require foreign depositors with FCDU accounts to sign a waiver that would allow their deposits to be scrutinized upon the request of other governments starting next month.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bankers Association of the Philippines are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding to spell out the terms of the scheme, which is seen as a step forward in easing the country's stringent rules on bank secrecy.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the move was not sufficient to take the Philippines out of the watchlist of countries perceived to be havens for money laundering.

Buenaventura said the BSP would also come up with clearer guidelines on what constitutes suspicious transactions in relation to an earlier circular requiring banks to immediately report these transactions to regulators.

He said the central bank would adopt the US Federal Reserve definition of a suspicious transaction. A circular would be issued to clarify the new definition.

"The plan (to require a waiver) has been approved in principle by BAP and would be finalized within the month. Hopefully by April, we could already enforce this," the BSP chief said.

Buenaventura stressed that only deposits of non-residents in the foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) of banks or dollar deposits of foreigners would be covered by the waiver.

"We thought that if we could relax (bank secrecy) on FCDU for foreign depositors only and leave it strict for local depositors, it would help us in our campaign against money laundering," he said.

Peso and dollar deposits of Filipinos would remain covered by strict laws on bank secrecy until the BSP has convinced Congress to amend the law and ease the secrecy on deposits worth P50 million and above and accounts of those being charged with racketeering, fraud and drug trafficking.

Last July, the Philippines was black listed by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force as well as by the US a few months later as one of the 14 "uncooperative" countries when it comes to money laundering.

The task force was created in 1989 by the Group of Seven, the leading industrial countries in the world, to monitor the movement of funds from drug cartels, mafia barons, and other shady sources that were being recycled through banks and investment institutions.

The BSP has created a six-member committee on money laundering in cooperation with the National Bureau of Investigation. The task force was tasked to probe violations and track potential suspicious accounts.

Buenaventura said easing the country's laws on bank secrecy would help the Philippines erase the stigma of being tagged by the US and European countries as one of the centers for money laundering.

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SBMA woos big Taiwan firm to invest in Bataan facility

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority is wooing Taiwan petrochemical giant Formosa Plastics group into establishing a downstream plastic and textile facility at the former Bataan Refugee Processing Center close to the Subic freeport.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said Formosa chair Yung-ching Wang showed keen interest in the 385-hectare property when he visited the Taiwanese businessman a few weeks ago.

"If Wang does not like a project, he usually does not let the business meeting last beyond five minutes. Our meeting lasted one hour," Payumo said. The Formosa founder is one of Taiwan's richest industrialists.

Payumo said the former shelter for Vietnamese refugees has become a potent area for industry with the nearing completion of a 10-kilometer access road to the Subic freeport that would facilitate the shipment of raw materials and processed goods. Although it was declared an economic zone during the Ramos administration, it has remained idle because of its poor location.

"The property is ready for occupancy and it fits nicely with the requirements of Formosa," Payumo said.

Formosa had wanted to establish an upstream petrochemical plant in the country but Payumo said this would have entailed more than 1,000 hectares and could inflame concerns on the project's impact on the environment.

"We opted to host only their downstream industries that require fewer space and are more environment-friendly. Formosa might want to produce yarns and plastic materials at the former refugee center," Payumo said.

Formosa has been actively looking for potential investment sites in the region to expand production. It has invested heavily in a petrochemical facility in Mainland China and it has relocated part of its chemical fiber and textile operations to Vietnam.

Extelcom needs ₱5B for cell phone project

By Anthony O. Alcantara

EXPRESS Telecommunications Inc. is investing some P5 billion to P10 billion for the initial rollout of its digital cellular phone network.

However, this would still depend on the outcome of Extelcom's debt-restructuring negotiations and the resolution of shareholder issues, said Extelcom first vice president Felipe Gozon.

He said Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s refusal to divest from or increase its capital in Extelcom has hampered debt-restructuring negotiations for the latter's P2-billion debts.

"The real plan was to increase capital, or maybe Bayantel would sell," Gozon said.

However, Lopez-owned Bayantel already wrote off its P6-billion investment in Extelcom because the venture did not take off. Bayantel also refused to divest from Extelcom allegedly because of shareholder issues and pricing.

It also did not help that Extelcom successfully prevented Bayantel from setting up its own cellular phone business by filing a case against Bayantel and the National Telecommunications Commission with the Court of Appeals.

Bayantel is set to submit its appeal to the Supreme Court.

Gozon said Extelcom had no choice but to remain in the mobile analogue business in a country increasingly becoming digital. The company is the only purely analogue service provider with some 100,000 subscribers or a mere 2 percent of the market.

"(However), we managed to have a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) last year," Gozon said. EBITDA is a measure of performance for companies with long-term investments that require huge capital.

In order for Extelcom to go digital, it has to have an initial investment of P5 billion to P10 billion. Pending the debt restructuring, the company has to choose between global system for mobile communications (GSM) technology or code division multiple access (CDMA) technology.

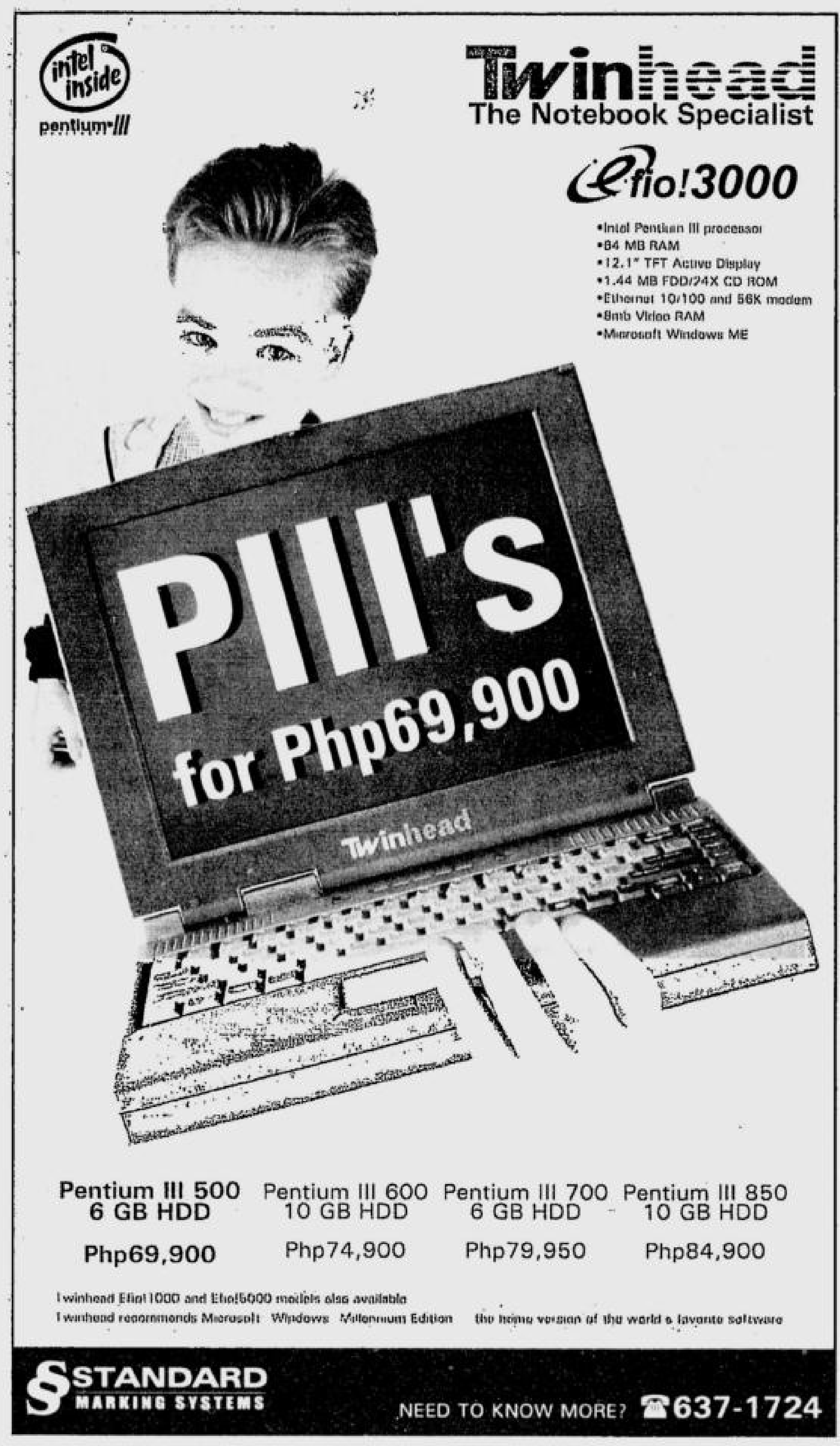
In an earlier interview, Extelcom president Advinculo Quiblat said Bayantel may only divest its 40-percent stake in Extelcom after the latter finalizes its debt-restructuring agreement with creditors.

He said the shareholder issue plaguing the management of Extelcom was part of the debt restructuring.

Extelcom, one of the pioneers in the local cellular phone industry, has lagged behind its competitors due to fierce competition as well as ownership problems involving its foreign partner, Luxembourg-based Millicom, which owns 47 percent of the company.

Bayantel has often disagreed with Millicom on management and policy issues and has offered to purchase the shares held by Millicom to get control.

Millicom, however, declined to sell its stake in the company. Millicom has gained management control after getting the support of another major shareholder, Mayon Holdings Inc. Mayon is headed by Gozon who is also president of GMA Network Inc.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21	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1,500,000.00
22	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	-	1,100,000.00
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Deadline for Medicare Payments

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is reminding all employed members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) from both public and private sectors, of the new schedule in the payment and collection of contributions.

Payment should be made on or before the 10th of the month following the applicable month through any of the 27 PhilHealth Accredited Collecting Banks (ACBs) and their branches nationwide.

Below is the contribution table for your reference. This will be the basis for adjusting the monthly contributions to be shared equally by the employee-member and the employer.

Monthly Salary Range	Employer Share	Employee Share
P3,499.99 & below	P37.50	P37.50
P3,500.00 to P3,999.99	P43.75	P43.75
P4,000.00 to P4,499.99	P50.00	P50.00
P4,500.00 to P4,999.99	P56.25	P56.25
P5 000.00 toP5,499.99	P62.50	P62.50
P5,500.00 to P5,999.99	P68.75	P68.75
P6,000.00 to P6,499.99	P75.00	P75.00
P6,500.00 to P6,999.99	P81.25	P81.25
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Lifting

(From page B1)

While international groups recognize the effort of the BSP in instituting anti-laundering measures, they needed to see laws particularly on anti-racketeering, anti-drug trafficking, and easing of bank secrecy.

Under RA 1405, all bank deposits are considered absolutely confidential and may not be examined by any person of government office. Any account could only be examined with a court order.

Buenaventura stressed that the BSP wanted primarily to restore Section 25 of the old central bank law that gave examiners a small leeway in prying open deposit accounts that were suspected to have been used in fraud.

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

Bea's choice

MAKATI'S first district will have a third millionaire to choose from, instead of the two multi-media/show biz millionaires now waging low-intensity conflict among the city's "bantot" population.

Upon the prodding of the Makati's mestiziosis, led by haciendera Bea Zobel, social worker Melinda "Melon" Recto-Silverio of Bel Air IV Village has decided to seek the congressional representation being vacated by Joker Arroyo.

To launch Silverio's belated, quixotic candidacy, the Citizens of Makati for Good Governance have scheduled a *miting de avance*-of-sorts at the Santuario de San Antonio parish center at 5:30 p.m. today.

In addition to Señora Bea, the group's leading spirits include Josie Bantug, Ching Montinola, Sandy Squillantini, Menchu Bautista, Olivia Romulo, Mercy Tuason, Rossana T. Fores, Bingbing Santos, Mert Loinaz, Menchu Soriano and

COCKTALES/ B4

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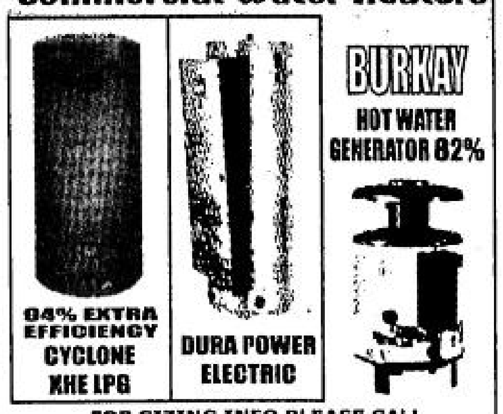

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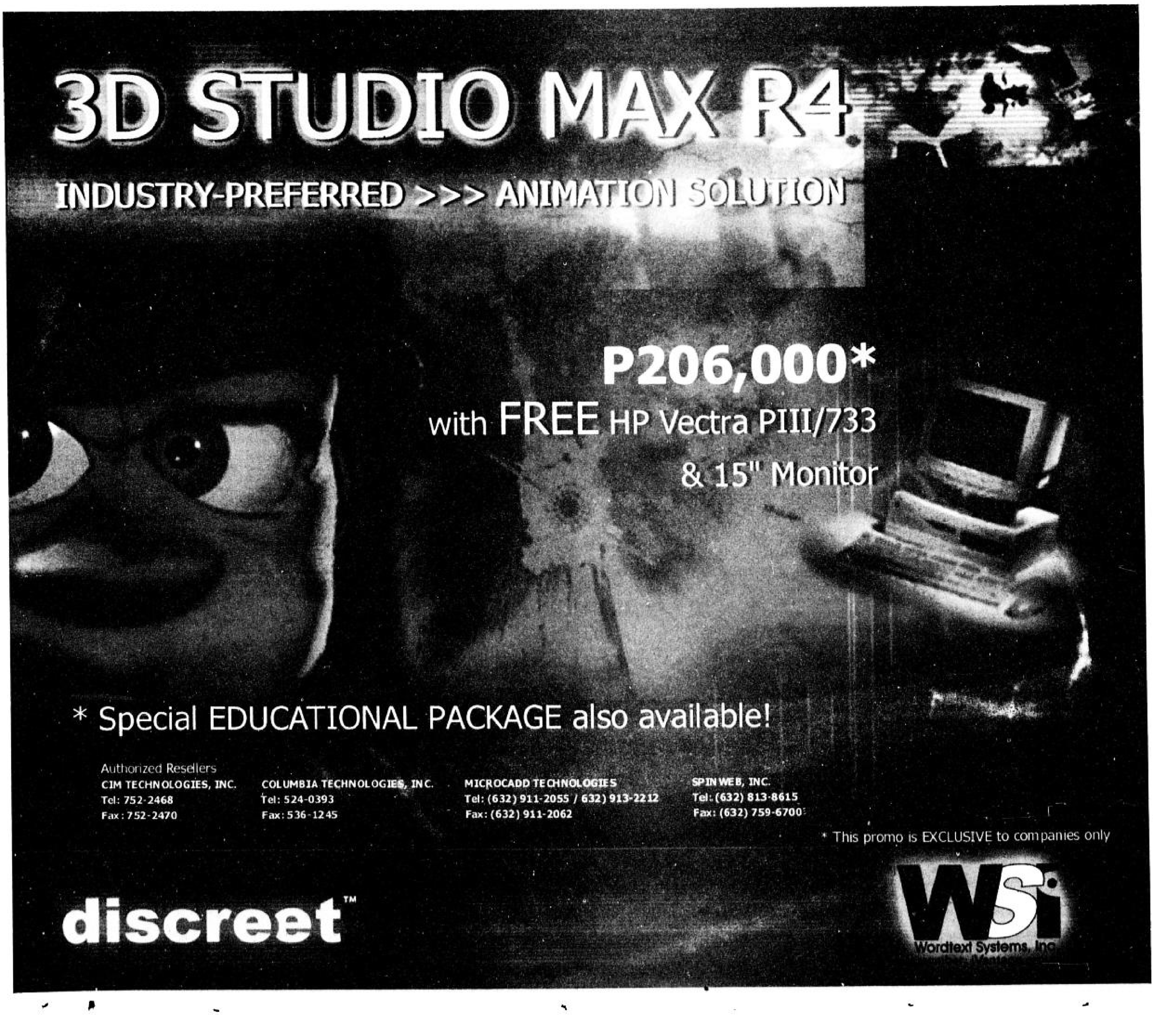
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Open letter to the PSE Board

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

ACTUALLY, no, this is not an open letter to the Board of Governors of the Philippine Stock Exchange. I just figured if I said that, some of them might read it. You see, a new Board was elected this past Saturday. In fact, last week I attended a dinner for one of the two slates of candidates. I wasn't invited to the other campaign dinner so you KNOW who had my support. The next months are critical for the PSE.

Before I forget though, Franky corrected me that he WAS NOT willing to take a bullet to save the Philippine Stock Exchange as I said last week.

Fortunately for us, Vivian, a very brave lady, a good friend, and a hardworking member of the PSE Board of Governors, has volunteered. No one and I mean no one, has worked harder over the years to make the PSE a world-class place to trade stocks.

A fundamental change that will occur this year is that shares just like other corporations will represent ownership of the PSE. Now ownership of a stock exchange "seat," which also gives you the privilege to trade on the floor, is the method of ownership. Once the shares are distributed to the members, ownership will be separate from trading rights. Eventually, the Philippine Stock Exchange will go public and you might "own" the exchange. The actual way this will take place is still undecided.

One problem for me about the brokers having exclusive ownership over the exchange is that sometimes I am not sure if your needs as the "customer" have a high priority. Every company must take care of its clients in order to make a profit. But the exchange is not a profit center for the people who own it. Stockbrokers make their money from the stock business, not the exchange operations. Therefore, as long as the exchange exists, no matter if you are being served well, the brokers may be complacent since they have no great financial interest in the operations of the exchange itself. In the long run, they do care how well the exchange functions. However, in the short-term exchange ownership is not a big financial deal. If the PSE goes public, shareholders will most certainly care that the corporation's customers are satisfied and increasing in numbers.

Stock prices continued to hold their own last week in the support zone of 1600. Everything is still in place for an eventual rally. The setup for a prosperous future is going to take some time. The market should continue to tread water for the next few weeks. After that, I predict a major upswing. I sent some charts to those on THE LIST. If you asked to be on THE LIST and have not received anything, email me again. I will tell you that as of Friday's closing, the very long-term moving average lines have signaled an up market. This chart configuration has not occurred since early 1997 when they signaled a drop. We need to stay at or above the 1600 for at least three more weeks for a confirmation.

Everybody is concerned with the thin volumes. All the nonsense you read about volume being down due to politics is only partly true. Volumes are down because the brokers themselves are not trading because of new rules hindering brokers from trading their own money. Recent volumes show how much activity comes from the brokers themselves. And that brings me to my reason for wanting to address the new PSE Governors.

Most stockbrokers rely on a small group of clients to generate their income. Most do not have the resources or the expertise to spread the word about investing in the market. This stock market can never grow and improve until share ownership among the population is bigger. And does the PSE do anything to educate and therefore encourage investment? If you are reading this column, you are interested in the stock market and should know what is going on. Did you know that the PSE regularly conducts seminars for new investors? Did you know that the PSE visits college campuses to encourage students to pursue a career in the stock market? Did you know that the PSE regularly talks to business owners about the benefits of going public? Well, when the PSE does these things, it is the best-kept secret in the Philippines. The effectiveness of their programs to attract new clients to the market has been dismal.

The bulk of the PSE income is from IPO fees. But why would a company raise funds by going public when less that one half of one percent of the "public" invests. Look at all the "dead" stocks (not dead companies) on the exchange. That is because there are not enough investors "to go around."

The only way that prices can go up is if money flows into the market. The only way that new money can flow into the market is if new investors participate. And the PSE does not do enough to bring new investors in. In 1999, the PSE Training Institute held seminars for 2,241 participants, including "MBA classes, faculty and employees of auditing firms." If all became investors, this PSE effort would double the current number of clients in 100 years.

Every Saturday, the firm I consult for, I. B. Gimenez Securities holds an information seminar for potential investors. But the brokerage firms cannot be expected to do the job of the stock exchange regarding public awareness. That is like San Miguel asking the beer dealers to promote their product while the company does not advertise. The new Board of Governors must start the exchange properly promoting the market. It is in your best interest.

Congratulations and good luck to my *inaanak*, Christopher Lardizabal on his new company CBL Business Management Consultants and Research. Dondi teaches at UST and offers his company's services to graduate students with thesis and firms that need project studies. He is available at cblconsultants@pinoymania.com.

(John Mangun can be reached at Tel. Nos. 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

Bambina Buenaventura.

"Now that we are faced with the May elections, we may need a mini-Edsa II miracle in Makati," said their stirring manifesto to the citizens of Makati.

"Our local government situation seems to mirror the national situation under former President Estrada. While the general sentiment is that we must do something to correct the situation, it is accompanied by a feeling of helplessness in the face of gold, guns and goons."

According to the grapevine, no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to campaign herself for Silverio, whose government experience so far has been limited to being a barangay *kagawad* of Forbes Park.

A 1968 foreign service graduate of Assumption, Silverio is running an uphill battle against frontrunners Teodoro Locsin Jr. and Armida Siguion Reyna, two steadfast family friends now divided by a common political desire.

Siguion Reyna, of "Aawitan Kita" and censors fame, herself was a surprise candidate, at least to Locsin, since the two families are travel and eating buddies, in addition to being partners in Locsin's struggling newspaper venture.

According to the grapevine, it was lawyer Alfonso Reyno, not Siguion Reyna's brother Sen Juan Ponce Enrile as commonly believed, that persuaded the movie producer to run against Locsin and the Binay machinery.

On account of his aversion to being touched and eating in *carinderias* and his inability to speak Tagalog fluently, Locsin is heavily counting on comebacking Mayor Jejomar Binay to deliver the urban poor votes; Siguion Reyna, on the other hand, counts on her *masa* touch and residual Estrada influence to carry her candidacy.

Running with the flow

RUNNING priest Robert Reyes is scheduled to stage another political marathon today, this time from Makati to the Bangko Sentral complex in Malate, to protest lax money laundering regulations.

But before he could spring his first step, Governor Rafael Buenaventura already met with the Diliman-based priest and a few nuns over dinner Friday to explain the legal hamstrings of the Bangko Sentral in preventing such criminal actions.

As exhibits, Buenaventura was supposed to have shown the priest documents obtained from the closed Urban Bank.

Like a new convert, Reyes was supposed to have seen the light because of the encounter and has reportedly promised the governor that, instead of lambasting the central bank, he will use his trademark protest run to ask Congress to speed up the passage of several pending banking reform bills.

Short takes

- TOPSHOP, London Fashion Week's Retailer of the Year for 1999 and 2000, is coming to Manila, along sister clothing retailers Topman and Miss Selfridge. The three shops, all part of the Arcadia Group, will have a combined store at the Robinsons Place Manila that is due to open sometime mid-year.

Heard through the grapevine

LOBBYIST Philip Kaplan is working on the key players of the new administration to have his Ramos and Estrada-era contract renewed again.

The dollar-denominated contract is due to expire mid-year.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

This series on Philippine Banking history published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

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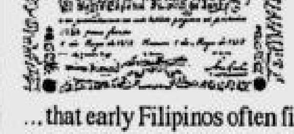

...the use of gold for barter was very common in the pre-Hispanic period of Philippine history?

...that as a universally accepted currency, gold was used in the form of barter rings and tiny engraved coins called *piloncitos*?

...that early Filipinos often finalized transactions involving land through the use of long chains made of gold?

...that Arab merchants who reached the Philippines through India and other Southeast Asian kingdoms brought the idea of the "yellow money" as a means of exchange?

...that as part of this "yellow money," cowry shells were so rare that the merchants often had facsimiles of them made from other materials, like the golden cowry shells from Siam? (*Siam* was the old name of Thailand).

...that Chinese immigrants entering Manila brought with them porcelain chips which they used for betting?

...that these chips could well have been an antecedent of today's plastic casino chips?

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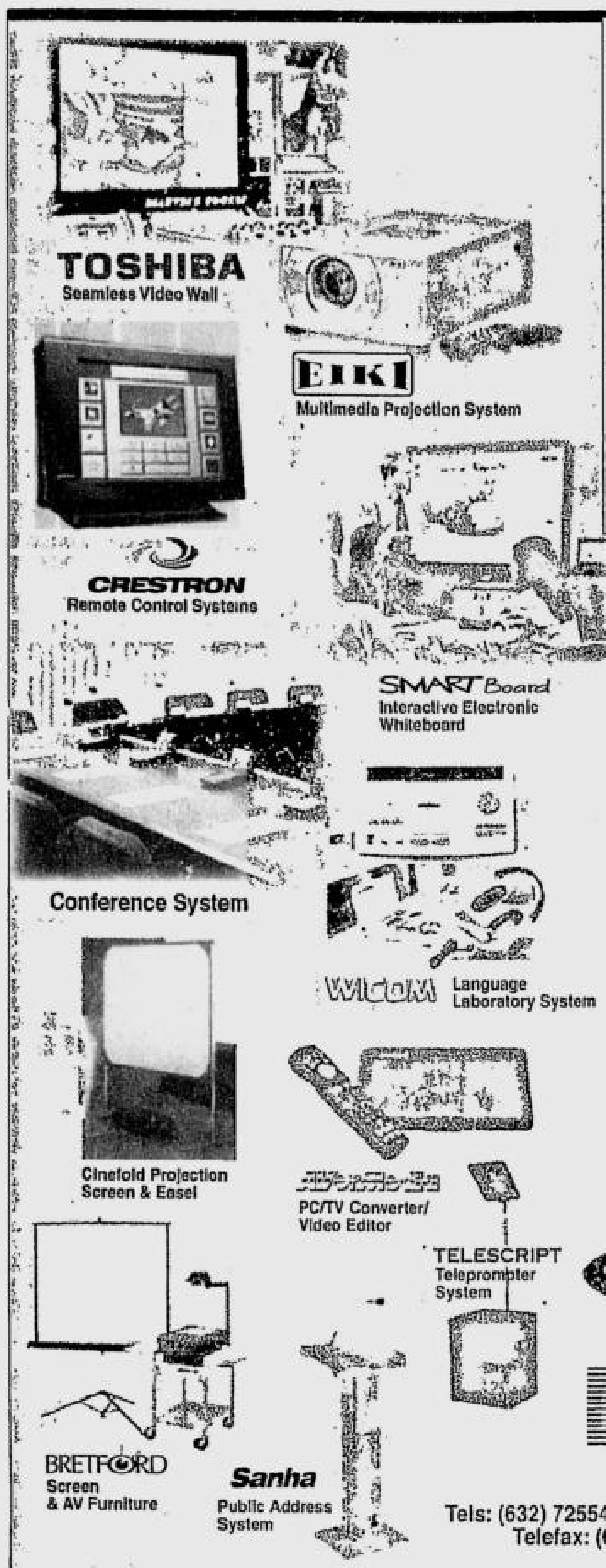
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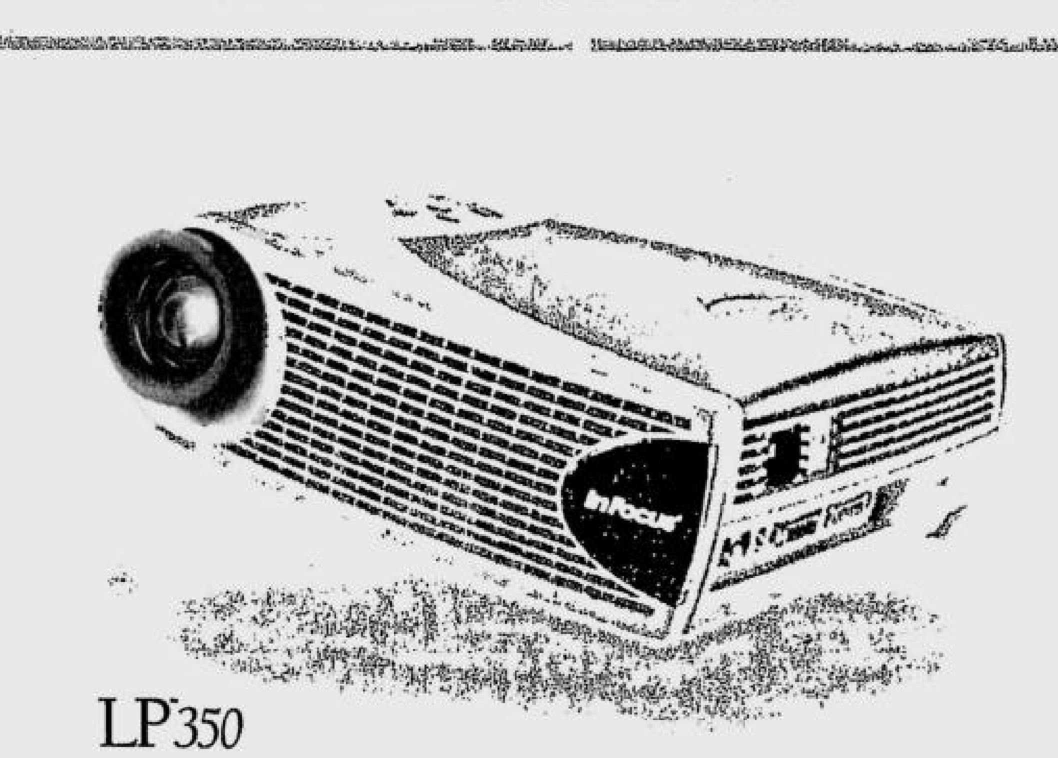

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Budget gap widened to P16B in first 2 months

BY CLARISSA S BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has incurred a budget deficit of P16 billion in the first two months of the year, or 78 percent more than the P9-billion shortfall in the same period last year under the Estrada regime.

However, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo stressed the budget deficit was lower than the target of P20 billion for the period.

He credited tighter spending for having compensated for lower revenue collection and enabled the government to post a deficit that was P4 billion lower than the target.

Romulo admitted that while expenditures were limited to P97 billion against a target of P107 billion in the first two months of the year, revenue collection of P81 billion was P5 billion lower than the target.

The budget deficit in February alone hit almost P10 billion from an actual deficit of P6.386 billion the previous month. Last year, the January deficit was only P114 million, which ballooned to P8.92 billion in February.

The finance secretary blamed the political crisis caused by the ousted Estrada administration for having stunted growth in businesses, which capped growth in government earnings.

"Businesses have not picked up and it would take four to six months before their operations would normalize," he said.

He said the government would try to increase revenue collection by aggressively running after delinquent taxpayers.

The finance chief said they were working double-time to contain the deficit to a level lower than P145 billion. "We are on track and we hope we could sustain this," Romulo said.

Last year, the budget gap swelled to P136.1 billion from a target of P62.5 billion. The failure of the government to rein in the deficit last year further eroded confidence of investors and creditors in the Philippine economy.

The finance chief pointed out that sovereign guarantees by previous governments to private companies continued to make a dent on the government's budget.

He said the guarantees that have become direct liabilities of the government were expected to hit P12 billion this year from an earlier estimate of P9 billion.

These included loans of Metro Rail Transit Corp., and the Casecnan and San Roque power projects.

"We want to bring down the deficit this year below P145 billion. Of course the worst-case scenario is a deficit of P225 billion," Romulo said.

In its presentation to the International Monetary Fund, the economic team said tax enhancement measures and higher earnings from privatization could bring the estimated deficit of P145 billion down to an ambitious P80 billion.

The measures to be implemented by the BIR were estimated to add an additional P20 billion to P35 billion in earnings to the state coffers while the schemes proposed by Customs were seen to contribute another P20 billion.

Proceeds from the privatization of big-ticket items that were earlier pegged at only P7 billion to P10 billion have been raised to as much as P20 billion, based on the documents presented to the IMF.

Among the measures to be implemented by the BIR are the full operations of the large taxpayers' unit, computerization of BIR procedures and database, strengthening of the audit system, electronic metering of documentary stamp tax, compromise on part of the P120 billion in delinquent accounts, and improved collection of excise taxes.

The Customs, for its part, would implement valuation of imports, improvement in third-party information on one-shop tax credits and police agencies, and closer monitoring of trading warehouses.

The government told the IMF that because of failed privatization efforts last year, the sale of big-ticket items this year could rake in P20 billion.

Included in the assets to be sold are a 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. now only seen to be worth P7 billion, a 90-percent stake in Philippine National Construction Co. valued at P6 billion, the sale of government stakes in RPN-9 and IBC-13 worth P3 billion to P4 billion; and the sale of its remaining 16-percent stake in Philippine National Bank.

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T-bill yields seen easing further today

THE BUREAU of Treasury expects banks to bid 15 points lower in today's auction of treasury bills following the surprise half-point cut in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' interest rates.

Traders are even more bullish with expectations of as much as a 0.30-percentage point drop in the government's borrowing rate.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said he anticipated a positive reaction from the market today. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura agreed that treasury bill rates, specially the longer tenors, should firm up further today.

"I expect the rates to go down across all maturities. Conservatively, I am looking at a 15 basis points drop across all tenors," Edeza said.

The BSP governor said he believed the central bank's rate cut would have less impact on the 91-day rate. "I think they could still bring it down slightly lower but the greater impact would be on the longer term," he said.

Buenaventura had ruled out another BSP rate cut next week. "We will have to wait for the Fed this time around," the central bank governor said.

Monetary authorities have reduced overnight rates ahead of a scheduled meeting of the US Federal Reserve on March 20.

The national treasurer said he expected the BSP to bring down interest rates further by another half percentage point once US monetary authorities have announced their own reduction.

This scenario, Edeza said, would bring the 91-day treasury bill rate or the government's benchmark borrowing rate back to single-digit levels soon.

Last Monday, the 91-day treasury bill rate went down by 12.8 basis points to 10.328 percent from 10.456 percent, the 182-day rate slid by 22.3 points to 11.56 percent from 11.783 percent, and the 364-day rate by 4.4 points to 12.453 percent from 12.497 percent.

As for the peso, Buenaventura said the peso reacted to the weakness of the Japanese yen and fell back past the 48 to $1 late last week.

The local currency posted a strong recovery early last week in reaction to a Supreme Court decision that had affirmed the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

"The peso would track regional currencies and the recent weakness was very much yen-related. Actually, the Thai baht was much more affected," Buenaventura said.

The BSP governor stood by his earlier forecast that the peso would strengthen to 44 to $1 and average at 46 to $1 this year. Analysts, however, believed the local currency would average at 47.50 to $1 at best.

PLDT eyes hike in access charge

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. may increase its access charge for cellular phone companies in order to address the lopsided revenue sharing between landline operators and cell phone firms.

PLDT vice president for carrier relations Alfredo Carrera yesterday said there was a need to rationalize the settlement scheme between local exchange operators and cellular phone companies.

"Unlike the percentage sharing of revenues for a national long distance or cellular phone call, PLDT is inclined to favor a flat access charge approach based on cost," he said.

The access charge currently ranges from P1.32 per minute to P2 per minute.

However, Carrera said this would be a sensitive subject that needed careful study, specially since the PLDT group has two cellular phone subsidiaries—Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Carrera added that PLDT was one with the Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies in acknowledging this alleged "disparity" in the existing revenue-sharing system.

Paptelco president Eric L. de los Reyes earlier said members of Paptelco, including PLDT, carried the full credit risk as collectors and that they should be compensated for it.

"The rate structure should benefit all players," he said.

Most of Paptelco's members wanted a collect-and-keep arrangement for the airtime charge that they collect for the cell phone companies such as Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom.

Under the present setup, Paptelco members get a share of only 30 percent, or P1.32 per minute, of the total toll revenue of P4.40 per minute. They have no share at all in the airtime charge of cell phone companies that range from P12 to P14 per minute.

De los Reyes said this means Paptelco members get only 10 percent of the revenues from calls made to cell phone subscribers from Paptelco subscribers. About 14 percent goes to the inter-exchange carrier, or the backbone provider that connects the calls between two networks, and 76 percent to the cellular phone company.

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Global risks seen weighing down on local share prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

STOCKS are seen to drift sideways with a bearish bias this week, and analysts are now blaming the turmoil in the global markets for negating whatever positive developments are arising on the local front.

Analysts said big foreign fund managers have been staying out of the market despite the improving outlook—coupled by last week's affirmation by the Supreme Court of the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration—due to spillover jitters over the weakening US economy.

After a short-lived buying binge on Monday after the Supreme Court handed down its decision, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index traded listlessly during the week, ending at 1,588.39 or 0.54 percent lower than last week's level.

Eric Sta. Ana, assistant director for sales at foreign brokerage house Vickers Ballas (Philippines), said global risks were unfortunately weighing down on the local stock market, which remained highly dependent on foreign funds. He said 1,570 provided a good support for the market.

"The domestic outlook is actually not so bad. We're seeing some inactivity but at least there are no heavy sell-offs," Sta. Ana said. "Nobody bothers to sell but of course nobody is buying yet. Everybody is waiting for the chance to buy."

He explained that the resolution of the political uncertainties as well as the emerging downtrend in interest rates should make local issues attractive now except that foreign funds were wary of the impact of the US slowdown on the local corporate sector.

"However, there are some positive signs. There are certain companies which have potentials to post excellent earnings," he said. "Foreign funds will wait for first quarter results but now the downward risks are minimal. For long-term investors, it is time to start accumulating good stocks."

For instance, Sta. Ana said companies such as fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. and premier property developer Ayala Land Inc. were showing unusually robust sales activity during the first two months of the year. He also said that other consumer-based stocks such as La Tondeña Distillers Inc. and San Miguel Corp. would likely benefit from the strong consumer spending this election year.

Wellex Global Equities head of research James Lago said the market was still in a consolidation mode, albeit with some downside risks. If the 1,568 support is broken, he said the market could drop to as low as 1,510.

"We see the market as a strong-hands market. The groups being shaken out are the ones who can't afford to wait for opportunities," he said.

Lago noted that with pension funds Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System no longer actively trading in the market, volume was still likely to be light. However, he said that a lot of institutions and private investors who were unable to buy during the historic rally after the ouster of former President Estrada were now waiting for opportunities.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said: "Given the long wait before the election in May, investors are unlikely to take a strong position prematurely. As such, the market is expected to remain in consolidation, perhaps between the narrower range of 1,570 to 1,650. The release of first quarter results by April may provide a needed boost to some stocks but investors will continue to look toward the elections in May."

The market is also looking forward to the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) policy meeting on March 20.

"Investors are hoping that the Federal Reserve will once again come to the rescue of the US economy and stock markets across the globe with another interest-rate cut. The Fed has already slashed the cost of borrowing in the US by 100 basis points in two moves last January. But nothing is certain at the moment as the Fed waits for some key economic indicators for clues," Wise Securities head of research Jose Vistan said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, March 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.9	16,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	110	120	110	120	1,250
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	33,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	140
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	54	53.5	53.5	39,500
Global Business Bank Inc.	72	72	66	71	700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	229	230	227	228	43,890
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	1,610
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	46	47.5	261,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29.5	28	29.5	600
Security Bank Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	50,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	25,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	46,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	2,230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	970	960	970	1,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	62,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	1,120
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	4,000
Piltel	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	775	790	775	785	77,510
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	1	1	22,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	106,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52.5	53	52.5	53	4,800
Manila Electric Co. B	62.5	63	62.5	62.5	591,200
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.88	1.82	1.88	1,910,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	718,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,065,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.55	110,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	10	10	10	10	6,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	130,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	155,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	6,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	13,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	89,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48	46,800
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	149,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	18,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	40,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	347,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	35,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	1,100
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	12,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12	12.75	12	12.75	1,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	3,286,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.44	150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	607,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	40,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	570,000
Ionics Inc.	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	577,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	100,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	80,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.98	1.9	1.98	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	790,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	1,240,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
Music Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	272,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.72	0.8	0.72	0.8	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	240,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	430,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,730,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	530,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	46.5	46.5	44.5	45	408,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	495	495	495	495	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	648,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	12,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	17,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	5,502,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	400,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	2,720,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	19,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	3,728,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	1,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	4,050,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.11	1,800,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	650,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	12,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	1,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	18,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	524,110	34,004,475.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	174,481,130	503,617,555.00
PRO	18,790,000	74,437,120.00
Mining	43,650,000	375,500.00
OIL	44,620,000	263,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	282,065,240	612,697,750.00

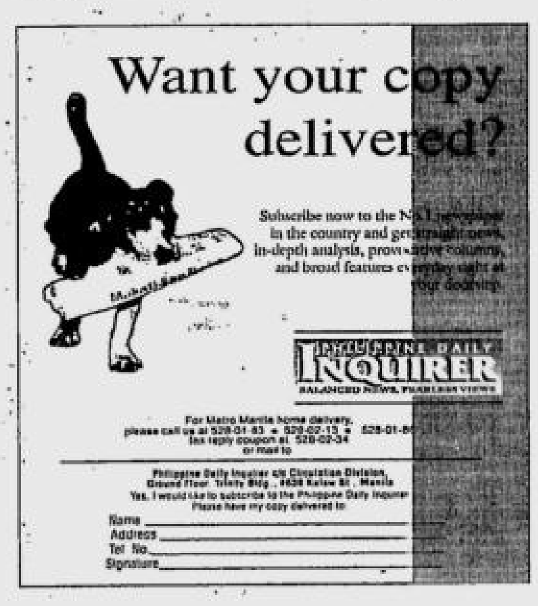
AVERAGES			
Banks & Fin Svc	614.02	DOWN	1.93
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,147.70	DOWN	1.89
PRO	615.70	DOWN	0.85
Mining	1,325.37	UP	11.15
OIL	1.89	UNCH	0.00
All Shares Index	768.37	UP	0.90
Composite	1,588.39	DOWN	1.18

NO. OF ADVANCES: 36; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 1,700

CURRENCIES

March 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.072271	1.000000	48.0020
Japan	Yen	0.008960	0.008356	0.4011
United Kingdom	Pound	1.576024	1.469800	70.5533
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137474	0.128208	6.1542
Switzerland	Franc	0.649271	0.605510	29.0657
Canada	Dollar	0.693667	0.646914	31.0532
Singapore	Dollar	0.610633	0.569476	27.3360
Australia	Dollar	0.547385	0.510491	24.5046
Bahrain	Dinar	2.844372	2.652661	127.3330
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.285908	0.266638	12.7992
Brunei	Dollar	0.608036	0.567054	27.2197
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000101	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.024650	0.022989	1.1035
UAE	Dirham	0.291949	0.272272	13.0696
Korea	Won	0.000846	0.000789	0.0379
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.932600	44.7667
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.476831	22.8888
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142174	6.8246
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.423195	20.3142
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067775	3.2533
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023119	1.1098
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000482	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156852	7.5292
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004652	0.2233
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005605	0.2691
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023119	1.1098
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.184158	56.8420



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BAGUIO CC	850,000	ALABANG "A"	1,850,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	430,000	ALABANG "B"	1,950,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	500,000	BAGUIO CC	775,000
CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,000,000
EASTRIDGE	240,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	CALL NOW!	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	860,000
EVERCREST "A"	190,000	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	150,000
LUISITAGCC "A"	620,000	ORCHARD "A"	290,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	15,500,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
MT. MALARAYAT "C"	1,100,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,150,000
PUERTO AZUL "A"	150,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,180,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	WACK WACK GOLF	9,000,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	30,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MAKATI SPORTS	45,000	TAGAYTAY GOLF	65,000
MANILA GOLF (ASSIGNEE)	500,000/yr	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	50,000	WACK WACK	100,000

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Camp John Hay Golf	350,000	Celebrity	210,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	Eagle Ridge A	425,000
Celebrity	220,000	Manila Golf (Indv.)	15,000,000
Forest Hills A & B	260,000	Manila Golf (Corp.)	16,000,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	15,500,000	Manila Polo	3,200,000
Manila Golf (Corp.)	18,000,000	Manila Southwoods A	850,000
Manila Southwoods A	850,000	Manila Southwoods B	950,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000	Mt. Malarayat A	Please call
Makati Sports B	500,000	Orchard A	350,000
Sta. Elena A	2,000,000	Orchard C	600,000
Sta. Elena B	2,200,000	Puerto Azul	120,000
Tagaytay Midlands	900,000	Riviera A	250,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	500,000	Sta. Elena A	2,000,000
Wack Wack	9,000,000	Sta. Elena B	2,200,000
BUYING:		Tagaytay Midlands	900,000
Alabang A	1,900,000	Tagaytay Highland Club	500,000
Alabang B	2,000,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	750,000	Valle Verde CC	180,000
Camp John Hay Golf	340,000	Valley Golf	350,000
		Wack Wack	9,000,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A"	Please Call	2,200,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	1,950,000	-
Camp John Hay	Please Call	400,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Celebrity Sports	190,000	220,000
Club Filipino "C"	-	Please Call
Eagleridge "A"	425,000	-
Eagleridge "B"	Please Call	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	110,000	150,000
Fontana "D"	-	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	395,000	450,000
Manila Golf (indv.)	14,500,000	15,500,000
Manila Polo	3,000,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	850,000	900,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	950,000	-
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	-	500,000
Pueblo de Oro		380,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	Please Call	130,000
Sherwoods "B"	-	390,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Country Club	Please Call	495,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	1,200,000	1,300,000
Tagaytay Midlands	880,000	-
Wack-Wack	9,000,000	Best Bid

*** OTHER SHARES AVAILABLE ***

PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE:

Lessor	
Alabang Country Club	45,000
Forest Hills	20,000
Manila Southwoods	60,000
Riviera	40,000
Tagaytay Highlands	60,000
Tagaytay Midlands	45,000

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Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas San Miguel Avenue Pasig City

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of March 12, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,850,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,950,000	-
Baguio Country Club	800,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	110,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	130,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	375,000
Canlubang	850,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	400,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Club Filipino	300,000	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	260,000
Evercrest "A"	115,000	130,000
Forest Hills "A"	2[illegible]8,000	275,000
Forest Hills "B"	270,000	290,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	450,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	400,000	450,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	500,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	18,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	15,000,000	16,000,000
Manila Polo	3,500,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	850,000	950,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	950,000	1,100,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	200,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Ind./Corp.)	Please Call	Please Call
Montemar (Corp.)	-	55,000
Montemar (Ind.)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	450,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	330,000	375,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	400,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	550,000	650,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	95,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	230,000	-
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	300,000
Sta. Elena "A"	2,100,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	2,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.)	400,000	600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.)	-	350,000
Tagaytay Country Club	490,000	530,000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	-	950,000
Valle Verde (Ind)	180,000	-
Valley Golf	350,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	8,600,000	-

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)
Manila Golf 450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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2.*	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		1,900,000
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	750,000
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	100,000
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	320,000
6.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		850,000
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	130,000	120,000
8.	CELEBRITY CLUB	220,000	200,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		490,000
10.	CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	320,000
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"		400,000
13.	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
14.	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300,000	260,000
16.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
19.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	500,000	
20.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21.	MANILA POLO CLUB		2,600,000
22.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000,000	900,000
23.	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
24.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	190,000	170,000
25.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
26.	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	500,000	400,000
27.	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (CORP)	900,000	
28.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls. Call	280,000
29.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls. Call	400,000
30.	*ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls. Call	600,000
31.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000	
32.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	290,000	
33.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
34.	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
35.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,000,000	1,900,000
36.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
37.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (CORP)	800,000	
38.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		1,100,000
39.	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	950,000	
40.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB		175,000
41.	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	
42.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		7,500,000

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January-February vehicle sales down 16%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CHANGE in Malacañang's occupants has failed to rev up demand for new cars and commercial vehicles as sales dropped for the 5th straight month in February this year.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales tumbled 16 percent to 11,686 units in the first two months this year from 13,912 during the same period last year.

February sales were down 14.6 percent to 5,950 from 6,964 last year. Monthly sales have been on the slow lane since October last year and there has been no sign yet that it would shift lanes soon.

Commercial vehicle sales fell by 7.9 percent to 8,394 units in the first two months this year from 9,118 a year ago. Passenger car sales plummeted 31.3 percent to 3,292 units from January to February this year from 4,794 units during the same period last year.

February sales were a big disappointment to assemblers who expected the euphoria from the change in the country's leadership would spill over to their cash registers.

Campi members had previously changed their projections from flat to a 10-15 percent growth this year under President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

Last year, sales jumped 12.8 percent to 83,949 units from 74,414 units in 1999. This was the first time since 1998 that the industry posted growth figures.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. maintained pole position with a 27.54-percent share of total industry turnover in the first two months with 3,219 units sold. This was largely due to its dominance in the commercial vehicle segment with its best-selling Tamaraw Revo (1,941 units sold since January).

Honda Car Philippines Inc. paced the passenger car segment with a 27-percent share.

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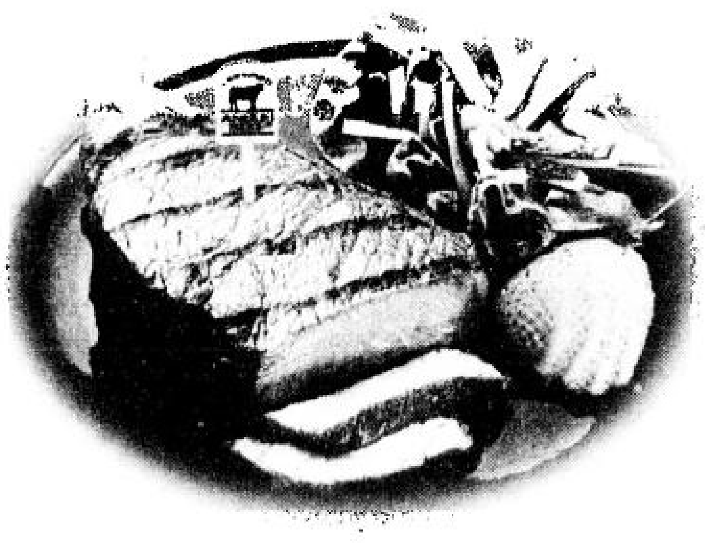

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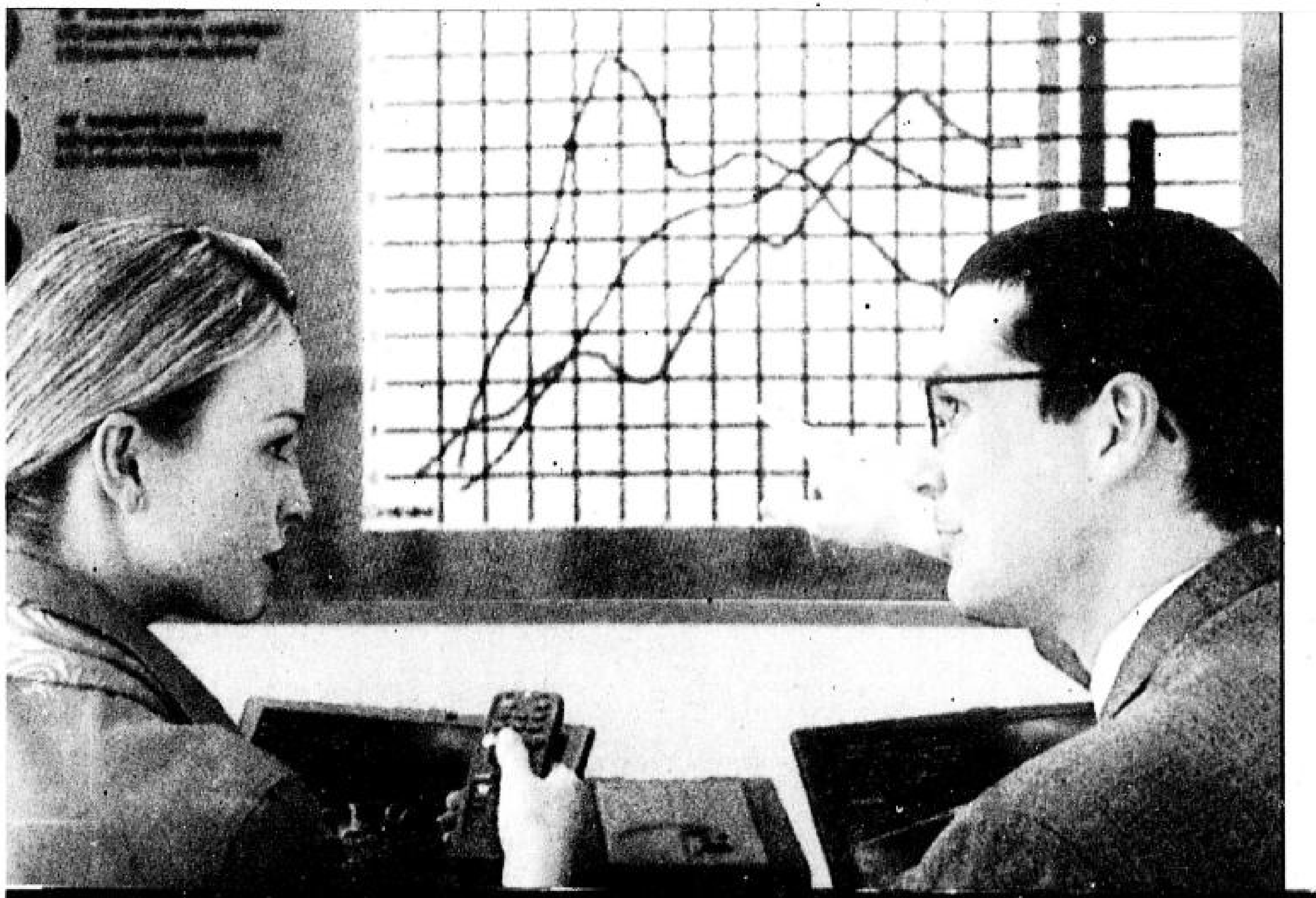

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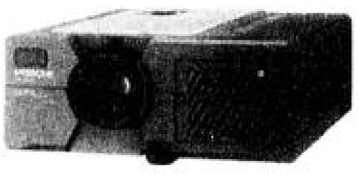

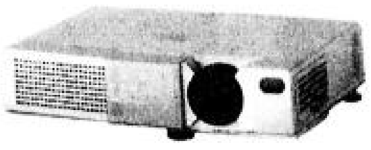

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'CHRISTMAS GIFT'

Coalition questions North Harbor deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COALITION for Ports Modernization is questioning an alleged midnight deal perpetrated by former President Estrada and former Philippine Ports Authority general manager Juan O. Peña granting shipping giant William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. (WG&A) the contract to operate the Marina Slipway at North Harbor.

Coalition spokesperson Vicente Gambito said the lease contract was a "virtual Christmas gift" to WG&A because it allowed the giant shipping line to lease the Marina Slipway—the biggest and strategically located container yard in North Harbor—for years at a scandalously low price.

But WG&A defended the Marina Slipway contract as "aboveboard" and fully endorsed by various government entities, including the Economic Coordinating Council (ECC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which it claimed pegged the rental rates.

The lease agreement for the Marina Slipway was signed on Dec. 21 last year following the endorsement of both former President Estrada and the ECC. Based on the contract, WG&A will lease and operate the Marine Slipway from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2001 or until such time that the PPA turns over its operation to the bidder who will bag the North Harbor modernization project. The monthly rental rate was pegged at P12.15 per square meter or P886,950 a month.

Gambito said the expiration of the contract was left open-ended. The decision on whether to allow WG&A to run the Marina Slipway for years will depend on the outcome of the North Harbor privatization.

The government is practically starting from scratch in drawing up the privatization strategy for North Harbor. The issue of whether a monopoly or a multiple terminal operator contract would be the best option for the country's busiest port, which has been the subject of bitter debates for the last two years, remains unresolved. Gambito said that with the indecision on the North Harbor privatization issue, "it would take years before the port contract is auctioned off."

Incidentally, WG&A is part of the International Container Terminal Services Inc.-Asian Terminals Inc. consortium pushing for a monopoly contract in North Harbor.

Gambito also denounced the rental rate granted to WG&A which he said was even lower than the P18.50 per square meter rent mandated for all areas in North Harbor in 1990.

He cited PPA Memorandum No. 17-98 which pegged rental rates at North Harbor at P123.70 per square meter. This means that WG&A should pay close to P8.8 million in monthly dues instead of less than P900,000 under the disputed contract. In an e-mail reply to the INQUIRER, WG&A said the Marine Slipway contract was legitimate and fully mandated by the ECC and DTI. It claimed that the Department of Agriculture endorsed WG&A to the ECC and DTI as the company most qualified to transport the bulk of agricultural products traded across the country.

WG&A is the biggest carrier of livestock, corn, grain, fruits and vegetables in the country. Roughly 35 percent of its annual shipment of 277,000 TEUs are agriculture products. It dominated both the passenger and cargo shipping business.

WG&A said the contract was awarded only after " several weeks of negotiations and series of presentations and the contract was approved and confirmed by end-December."

WG&A stressed that the terms and conditions of the contract were mandated by the ECC and the rates (which it claimed represented a 100-percent increase) were all set by the ECC and the DTI, in consultation with the PPA. It maintained that the Marina Slipway would be made available as required and needed by the next operator of the modernization program.

Open books or face trade suspension, Piltel told

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has ordered publicly listed Pilipino Telephone Corp. to open its books to a team of SEC investigators or face suspension of the trading of its shares in the market.

In a press briefing Friday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that Piltel, a subsidiary of telephone giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., was supposed to present its books last Thursday to a three-member SEC investigative team consisting of a lawyer and two certified public accountants.

The team was tasked to determine whether the company misled the public about its true financial position two years ago. However, it was not able to push through with the examination of the Piltel books when the company failed to present the necessary documents and records saying they were not ready yet. The team postponed the examination for today.

"If they still would not open their books, we will suspend their trading," Bautista said.

Bautista said the commission would order the Philippine Stock Exchange to suspend the trading of Piltel, which is currently undergoing a debt restructuring.

"Piltel officials had been saying they could easily come up with the pertinent documents, so there should be no excuse for further delay," she said.

In January 1999, news about Piltel's huge debt burden amounting to billions of pesos came out in the newspapers.

Piltel's debt load had been disclosed in its periodic reports but the magnitude of which in the company's operations and liquidity was not fully discussed, the SEC noted.

Also, reports alleged that defaults in the payment of interest charges and the suspension of principal payments on Piltel's debts in the first week of January were not promptly disclosed by the company.

An investigative team formed by the SEC to look into Piltel's P34.9 billion worth of liabilities had recommended an actual field audit of the books and records of Piltel. It also urged the SEC to require the cellular phone company to execute a sworn detailed explanation in order to shed light on what really happened to its business affairs.

Piltel's debts have reportedly ballooned to nearly P40 billion. It posted a net loss of P5.2 billion last year, which was 33 percent higher than the previous year's level.

Earlier this year, Piltel announced that bondholders have agreed to restructure their exposure in the cellular phone company, thus completing the last stage of Piltel's restructuring program.

Under the MRA, half of the P1.3 billion worth of bank debts will be converted into convertible preferred shares of Piltel parent Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. at 1.1-percent interest per annum. Another 25 percent of Piltel's debts will be converted into a 10-year secured bullet loan and the balance of 25 percent will be converted into a secured 15-year term loan.

BOI urged to convince registered firms to list

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange will seek the help of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II in encouraging companies availing themselves of government's fiscal incentives to list on the local bourse.

In a briefing, newly elected PSE governor Robert Coyuito said encouraging more companies to go public in the stock exchange is part of ongoing effort to enhance liquidity in the market.

Coyuito noted that firms registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) were required to offer at least 10 percent of their equity to the public but this was not happening.

"Probably because of the soft market, they did not want to go into it. But we have to have a jumpstart. We want the small family-owned companies to come out," he said.

Coyuito noted that these companies already get their share of the incentives but most were not keen on pursuing public listing.

The call for BOI-listed firms to go public developed amid reports that the country has been regaining foreign and local investor confidence following the ouster of President Estrada, as indicated by the surge in project registrations with the BOI.

The BOI approved a total of 20 projects worth P3.73 billion in the first month of the Macapagal administration, up by 50.3 percent from P2.38 billion in the same period last year.

BOI data showed that foreign equity investments jumped by 162 percent to P600.7 million during this administration's first 30 days from P229 million in the same period last year. Roughly 75 percent of foreign investments came from Asia.

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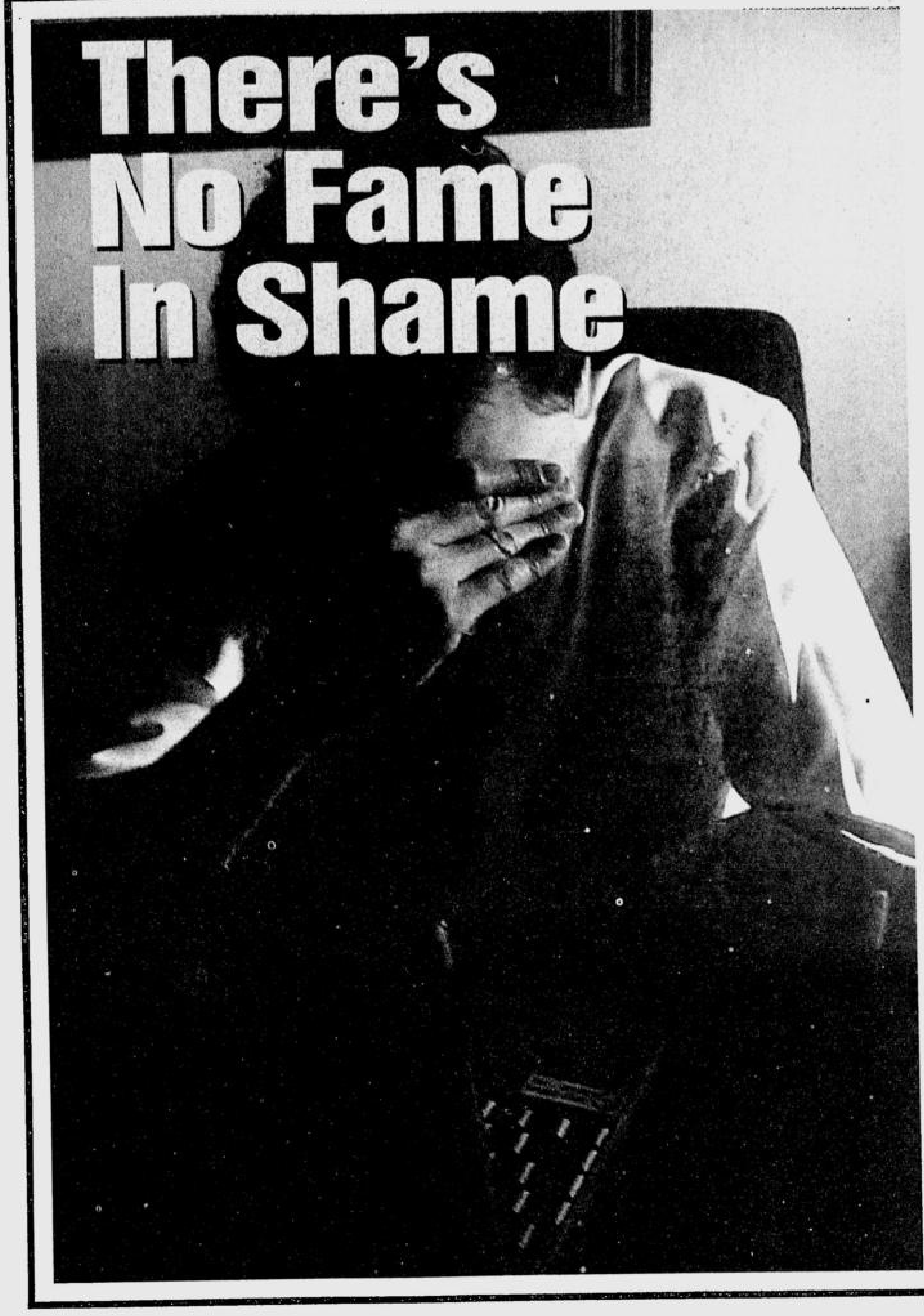

Last October, the Business Software Alliance (BSA) raised the reward for reporting software piracy in companies to P1 million. Since then, the number of reports to BSA has increased, enabling the National Bureau of Investigation to escalate its enforcement.

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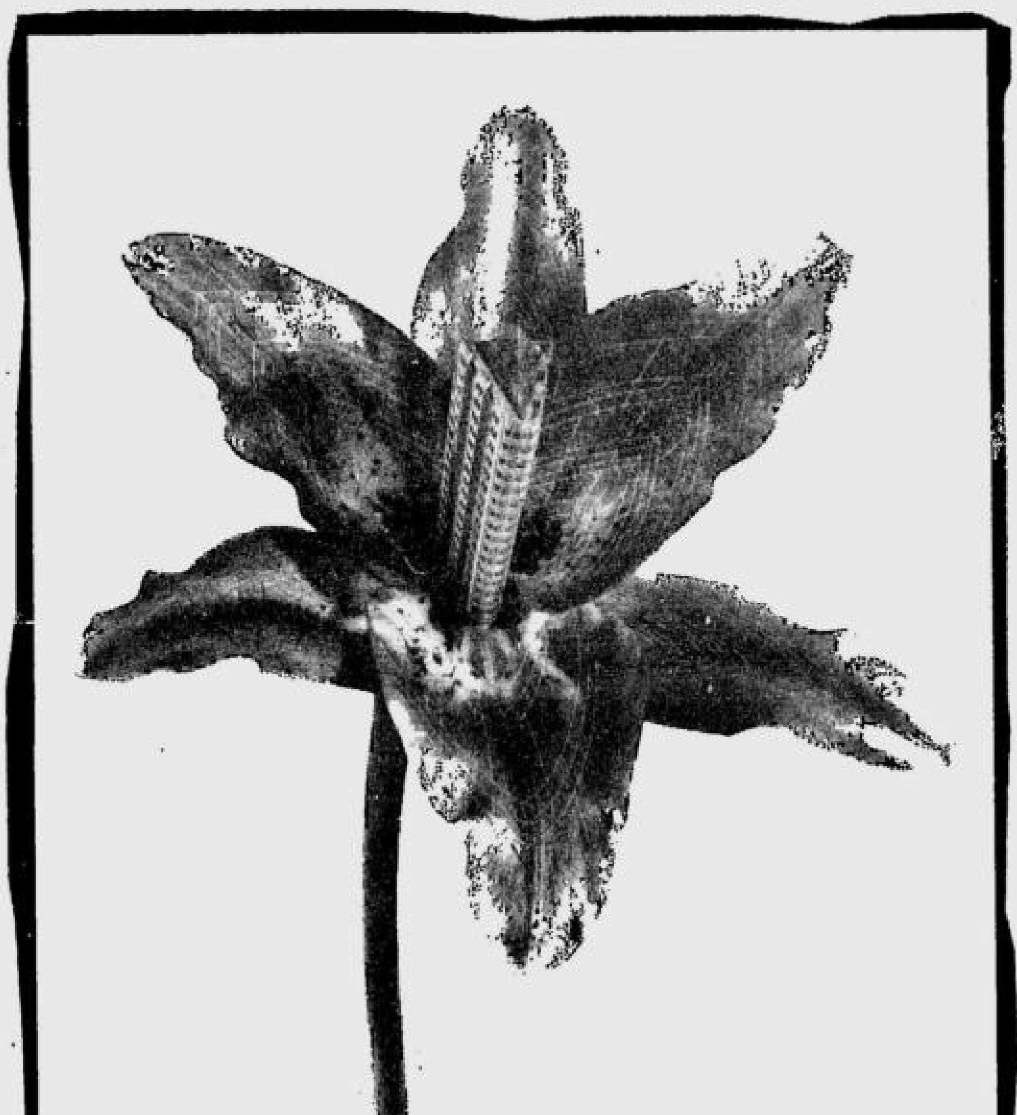

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Chair says deadlock stalling UCPB deals

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank chair Jeronimo Kilayco said Friday the ownership issue dogging the country's eighth largest lender was already affecting the bank's financial health and its employees' morale.

"Everything is put on hold. Our financial transactions are kept to a minimum. We hope the government resolves the ownership issue so the bank can move on," Kilayco, appointed chair of UCPB by the Estrada administration, told reporters.

He said management was having a hard time acting on large financial transactions for fear that these could be later questioned. He refused to give details about these transactions.

Kilayco also denied allegations that the bank's directors, including himself and president Lorenzo Tan, were "stubbornly" clinging to their posts.

The Macapagal administration has appointed new directors to UCPB, including bankers Deogracias Vistan and Francisco del Rosario, to take over Kilayco and Tan's seats.

"The present management's concern is simply the health of the bank because the employees are demoralized," Kilayco said.

The current UCPB board continues to run the bank after the Supreme Court restrained a Feb. 28 Sandiganbayan ruling that gave former Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. control of a 95.5-percent sequestered bloc in UCPB.

The high court is expected to issue a ruling this week.

The Supreme Court temporarily restored the government's right to vote the sequestered shares of UCPB, boosting the Macapagal administration's bid to unseat Cojuangco as San Miguel Corp. chair.

The new administration, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, plans to wrest control of UCPB to boot Cojuangco out of San Miguel. The bank administers a 27-percent stake in San Miguel, a sizeable block of shares that could determine the composition of the conglomerate's board of directors during its annual stockholders' meeting in May.

Coca-Cola shuts Calamba bottling plant permanently

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA, Laguna—The more than 30-year-old Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. plant here is old, redundant, costly and losing, and is shutting down operations for good.

A weak local currency and skyrocketing prices of raw materials and equipment had dealt the plant irreversible losses, Vicente Goquiolay, a spokesman for Coca-Cola Philippines, told the INQUIRER.

Goquiolay said the entire soft-drinks industry in Asia had fallen by 11 percent, weighing down even on established companies like The Coca-Cola Co. Consumer preference, he said, was now moving toward non-carbonated drinks, like bottled water and packed juices, and competing brands like Pop Cola and Pepsi Cola.

"It is not true that CCBPI has intended to stop operation of the plant merely to get rid of the regular or permanent employees and subsequently rehire employees on contractual basis," Goquiolay said.

Coca-Cola Philippines' Calamba plant has been hit by a labor strike. Union officials claim the company is shutting down the plant to forcibly retire over 200 permanent employees and replace them with contractual workers.

The company maintains that the strike is supported by only a minority of workers and that 160 employees have already opted for an early retirement.

Goquiolay said San Miguel Corp., which recently reacquired Coca-Cola Philippines, had not given an assurance that it would rehire workers at the Calamba plant.

San Miguel, in partnership with Coca-Cola, struck a pact with Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. to buy Coca-Cola Philippines.

San Miguel and Coca-Cola gave up their Amatil shares and took on debt in a $1.1-billion transaction for the unit. San Miguel ended up with 65 percent of the Philippine business, while Coca-Cola got 35 percent.

The companies agreed to value the Philippine unit at $1.2 billion, equivalent to its book value.

The new pact came amid a revival of investor confidence in the Philippines after the peaceful ouster of President Estrada, who was blamed by many analysts for dragging economic growth by fostering a climate of corruption. Estrada was forced out of Malacañang in January after the military backed mounting protests to his regime.

SEC orders MultiTel to shut down

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is shutting down Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. for violating the country's securities laws.

In a cease-and-desist order it issued last week, the SEC said it discovered that MultiTel had been illegally issuing securities to the public.

MultiTel, a company authorized to extend loans from funds borrowed from only 19 lenders, is currently under SEC investigation for accepting investments or borrowing from the public beyond the scope of its charter.

The SEC said MultiTel's chief executive admitted the company was offering a 3- to 5-percent interest monthly on loans it extended through funds borrowed from 238 investors.

As of Feb. 16, the company has extended over P11 million worth of loans, according to the commission.

SEC records showed that MultiTel failed to file a registration statement or any notice or application for confirmation of availability of exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Regulation Code for the sale of any security. The commission said it was ordering MultiTel to shut down to prevent it from issuing securities.

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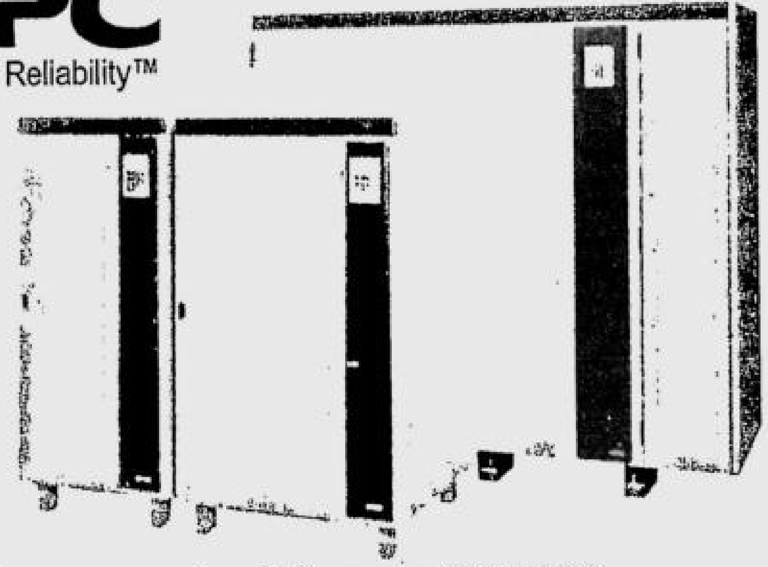

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PDIC urges RCBC to buy into Urban Bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE OVERSEERS of the Urban Banking group have offered to sell the ill-fated bank to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., the banking arm of the Yuchengco group, after Bank of Commerce withdrew its proposal to rehabilitate the bank.

Well-placed government sources confirmed that RCBC, which had also expressed interest to take over the majority control of Equitable PCI Bank, was now taking a look at Urban Bank.

But other banking sources explained that it was still Equitable PCI that RCBC believes "has a a strategic fit with except that the Go family was vehemently resisting calls to sell out."

The Go family had said it would take into the bank a strategic partner and give up only a minority stake in the bank. But the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to which Equitable PCI owes some P30 billion in financial assistance, had said it preferred a new investor to take over the bank.

Urban Bank declared a holiday and was subsequently closed by the BSP on April 26 last year. It is currently under the receivership of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. which, together with the BSP, has been talking to potential white knights.

PDIC has given all interested parties until March 16 to submit their formal expressions of interest. Sources said there were so far four local banks that have opened exploratory talks with PDIC, which expects to choose the new investor in Urban Bank before end-March.

One of those being wooed to rehabilitate Urban Bank under similar terms earlier proposed by the Bank of Commerce was RCBC, which has been shopping around for potential acquisitions in the past few months.

Bank of Commerce had planned to reopen Urban in September but the schedule was postponed indefinitely as major depositors tried to obtain some improvements in the offer. The bank finally backed out when controversies involving ousted President Estrada's deposit in the bank surfaced.

Urban Bank had over 14,000 depositors with accounts worth P9.1 billion, of which only P560,000 was insured. Among those with huge deposit claims with the bank were blue chip firms Meralco, Petron Corp. and San Miguel Corp. Banking sources said the Gokongwei group, another suitor of Equitable PCI Bank, was also keen on Urban Bank.

Gov't to push for 15% tariff on petrochem

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MACAPAGAL administration will lobby for the retention of the 15-percent tariff on the country's petrochemical imports before governments of other Asean member-countries.

Petrochemical Corporation of Asia and Pacific president Antonio Garcia said Trade Secretary Mar Roxas had promised to lobby for the retention of the petrochemical import tariff protection up to 2010 as a counter-proposal to Malaysia's position to maintain the current tariff on its car imports.

Garcia said industry players "want to keep the existing 15-percent tariff beyond 2004 or even beyond 2010."

"The Malaysians are lobbying for their cars. We should also (lobby for a similar tariff protection)," he said.

The official added that if the naphtha cracker project would push though, the government could make the right presentation with the Asean.

Last year, the Department of Trade and Industry agreed to maintain high tariff walls on polymers—a naphtha cracker product—up to 2010 provided that the petrochemical industry would invest at least $1 billion for the country's first naphtha cracker.

Duties on polymers are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2002 in line with the Asean Free Trade Area's tariff reduction program. Under Afta, duties on intra-Asean trade should be kept within zero to 5 percent.

Earlier, Philippine National Oil Co. chair Sergio F. Apostol said the $600-million project in Bataan would push through next month.

The government-owned firm's subsidiary, PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., is the project's lead proponent with a 34-percent stake.

BSP raising $130M through private placement

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would have to borrow another $130 million shortly, preferably through a private placement, to settle the rest of its maturing obligations next month.

Some $400 million in loans matured on Feb. 20 and another $470 million is maturing on April 8. The BSP has so far raised through a public borrowing some $740 million.

"For the remaining $130 million, we will either go through a special placement or simply buy dollars from the market," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank is scheduled to sign an agreement on Thursday, March 15, with the 19 lenders that pooled the $740-million loan that will mature in three years with an "all-in" spread of 3.1 percentage points over London Interbank Offered Rate.

Ten out of the 19 banks contributed $50 million each to the pool. These were Banco de Oro with JP Morgan and Chase Manhattan, Bank of the Philippine Islands, BNP Paribas, Citibank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, ING Bank, Metrobank Group, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., and Standard Chartered Bank.

Australia-New Zealand Bank, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, Belgian group KBC, Development Bank of Singapore, Fuji Bank, Sanwa Bank and Sumitomo Bank contributed $30 million each.

The proceeds from this borrowing would help beef up the country's dollar reserves that dipped to $14.179 billion after the BSP used portion of it to pay off the $400 million in debts that matured last Feb. 20.

The loans maturing in April were tapped by the BSP three years ago.

"This (the $130 million) is not really a material amount. We are glad we had already raised the bulk of our requirement at reasonable spreads," said Buenaventura.

GOINGS-ON

Agribuzz center lines up projects

ORIENTAL Negros Agribusiness Development Center Inc., a one-stop investment center that provides agribusiness information, promotes industry investments and directly assists investors, has lined up P69 million worth of investment projects for the year.

Located in Dumaguete City, the center has a P30-million Cattle Upgrading Project which will serve as a marketing arm of the SyCip Farmworkers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

The center will also secure marketing contracts for a P37.5-M Mango Marketing Project of the SyCip Farmworkers' Multipurpose Cooperative and the Negros Oriental Mango Growers' Association. Other upcoming projects valued at P500,000 each are the Palimpinon Geothermal Project, High Value Vegetables Project and Abaca Marketing Project.

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EXPORTBANK (EIB) is offering its credit facility program "Trade Fair Financing" to its growing clientele to help them finance their participation in local and foreign trade fairs.

Under the program, EIB will provide financing of up to P100,000 for participation in local trade fairs and up to P300,000 for trade fairs overseas.

Among the expenses covered by the funding are participation fees, product design, production of sample material and venue rentals.

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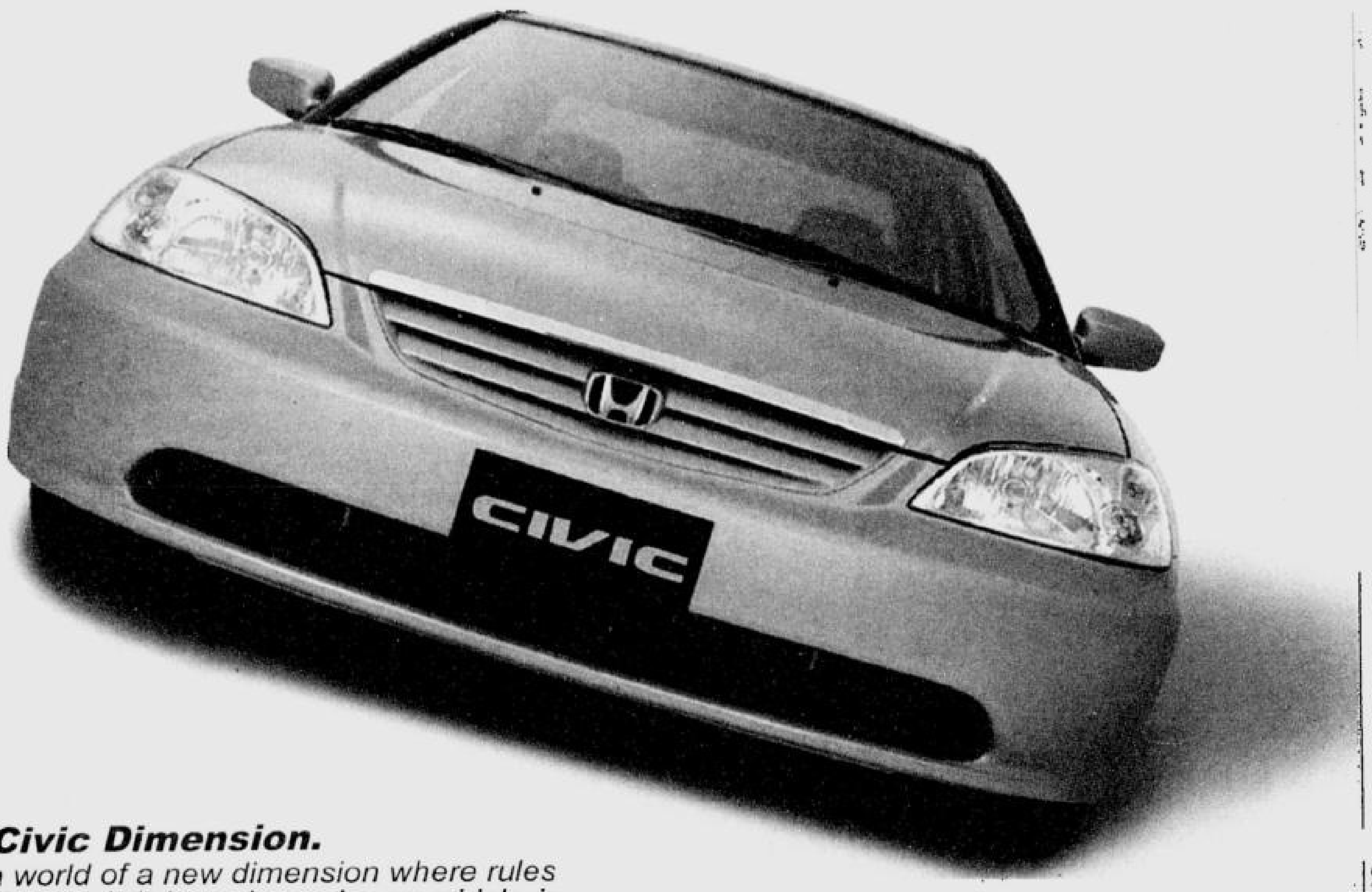

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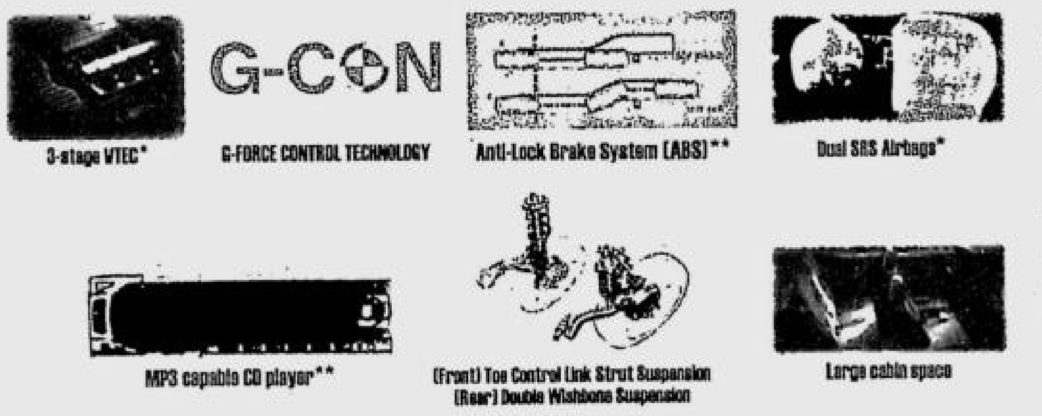
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East Asia seen getting ₱200M

A CONSORTIUM of Taiwanese and Singaporean investors plans to infuse some P200 million to rehabilitate East Asia Capital Corp., according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The infusion will pave the way for a renewal of East Asia's investment house license.

East Asia wants the SEC to renew its investment house license. The commission, however, has to wait until the company augments its capital to meet requirements set by law.

Records show that as of Dec. 19 last year, East Asia had a capital base of only P99.9 million, P200 million below the required capital of P300 million.

The infusion from a Taiwanese-Singaporean consortium is in line with a rehabilitation plan that East Asia will submit to the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The SEC will await the central bank's action before acting on East Asia's bid to renew its license.

Elena R. Torrijos

Recall GSIS chief's appointment

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE PRESIDENT has pledged to raise moral standards in government service. If anybody can do it, she can. The transformation is long overdue, but she faces a formidable job. She has to raise the standards from deep down in the gutters and up into the sunlit uplands.

To start with, she had better instruct the Presidential Management Staff to review the appointments she has so far made to make sure they all have sound legal basis.

One appointment that should be looked over again is that of Winston Garcia as president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System. This appointment clearly breaks the law and should be recalled.

The GSIS Act of 1997 (RA 8291) clearly specifies the job description of the president and general manager. Section 16.5.1 says: "The president and general manager of the GSIS shall be the chief executive officer and shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. **He shall be a person with management and investments expertise necessary for the effective performance of his duties and functions under this Act,**" (Emphasis mine.) There are no two ways about this provision. It is not subject to interpretation. Garcia either has management and investments expertise or he does not.

What is Garcia's background? He was elected member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Cebu in 1986 and held the post until 1995. He chaired the committee on good government, committee on law and ordinances, and executive committee on anti-graft and corruption. He has a degree in law from San Beda College and a degree in philosophy from the University of Santo Tomas.

A well-educated politician, to be sure. But his bio-data shows absolutely no management and investments expertise as required by law.

Also, Section 16.6.1 of the GSIS Act of 1997 says: "The president and general manager of the GSIS shall, among others, execute and administer the policies and resolutions approved by the board and **direct and supervise the administration and operations of the GSIS.**" (Emphasis mine.) GSIS is the country's largest life insurance company covering 1.5 million government employees. It is also one of the largest non-life insurance companies with a strict monopoly on government business.

Even in the private sector, there are very few insurance practitioners today with the management and investments expertise to run a composite life and non-life insurance company like GSIS. So, how can a person who has not even operated an insurance agency or a pawnshop in his life run a giant operation like GSIS?

Finally, the president and general manager of GSIS automatically takes the post of chair of the Philippine National Reinsurance Corp. Every insurance company, no matter how large it is, cannot carry on its own all the risks covered under its policies. It passes on some of these risks to another company or a panel of companies called reinsurers. This act of passing on the risk is called reinsurance, a line of business much more complicated than insurance.

National Re was set up to take a 10-percent slice of the reinsurance requirements of all insurance companies operating in the Philippines. National Re is actually nothing but a dollar-saving device for the country. Since GSIS owns 20 percent—the biggest single block—of National Re, the by-laws specify that the president and general manager of GSIS automatically chairs National Re. If Garcia does not qualify as president and general manager of GSIS, how can he sit as chair of National Re?

If the President is really bent on raising moral standards in government service, and I am sure she is, she should recall Garcia's appointment right away. Otherwise, the President's credibility will begin to wilt.

DOE chief to focus on rural areas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FORMER investment banker Jose Isidro "Lito" Camacho said he would make rural electrification his priority as energy secretary.

Camacho was set to officially assume office in a turnover ceremony this morning.

This could augur well for about 10,000 barangays all over the country, which light their homes with kerosene lamps and candles.

The implementation of the rural electrification program has faced many delays, from debt-servicing problems to contract scandals and even People Power II.

Camacho's predecessor at the Department of Energy, Mario Tiaoqui, said only 73 percent of 42,000 barangays had access to electricity at the start of the Estrada administration.

Tiaoqui had aimed to brighten the energy department's record to 90 percent by 2004.

Administrations before former President Estrada's watch were able to bring electricity to about 500 barangays every month through the efforts of the National Electrification Agency and the National Power Corp.

Camacho's training in investment banking may come in handy since bulk of the program's funding comes from multilateral agencies.

In recent years, confidence among foreign lenders such as the World Bank and the Japan Bank of International Cooperation in NEA has waned.

The World Bank has temporarily closed its windows to NEA due to unsettled loans and poorly performing projects.

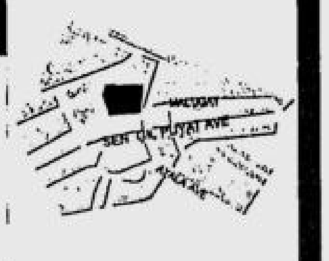
NEA has asked its foreign lenders to relieve it of interest and principal payments on about P2.9 billion in debt.

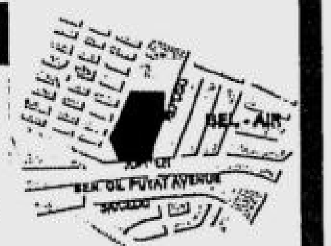
The agency has proposed to convert part of its debts into equities as soon as Congress approves an increase in its capitalization and to pay P1.9 billion in a spread of 10 years.

However, data provided by the National Economic and Development Authority showed that between 1994 and 2000, loans from the World Bank and JBIC lapsed or expired for at least five times.

These loans were used for the procurement of wooden poles and cross-arms.

More recently, the Asian Development Bank said it would not release the first tranche of a $100-million government loan for a rural electrification program until the power sector reform bill was passed.





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US jobless rate steady

WASHINGTON—The US unemployment rate held steady at 4.2 percent and payrolls grew more strongly than expected in February, the government said Friday in a report that cut the odds of aggressive interest rate cuts.

The labor department said US payrolls outside the farm sector grew at a larger than anticipated 135,000 in February after gaining 224,000 in January, a month when payroll gains were swollen by seasonal factors such as strong gains in the construction sector.

Those construction gains, of 158,000 new jobs in January, were not repeated in February. The sector showed a more modest addition of 16,000 jobs.

Stocks were expected to weaken on the unexpectedly robust payrolls growth while debt markets slipped into negative turf.

While February's payroll growth was much stronger than the 62,000 new jobs forecast by Wall Street economists, the trend in the job market has slackened considerably since last year, highlighting a slowing economy.

For example, in the past five months, payroll growth has averaged 103,000 each month, compared to an average gain of 187,000 a month during the first nine months of last year.

But with the weakness in the report concentrated mainly in the manufacturing sector and most other areas of the economy doing just fine, economists said the report lessened the odds that the US Federal Reserve would need to make bold cuts in interest rates.

James Glassman, a senior US economist at JP Morgan & Co. in New York, said the report "dramatically lowers the odds the Fed is going to step up the pace of easing."

However, Glassman and others still expect the Fed to cut interest rates by 50 basis points later in March.

"What the overall data are saying here is that the economy has been slowing from the pace we saw in the first half of last year, but is not falling off a cliff," said Eric Green, senior economist, Paribas, New York.

"It reduces the case for a strong ease at the next Federal Reserve meeting. This certainly casts a good deal of doubt on one. We're maintaining our expectation for a 50-basis point rate cut," he added. *Reuters*

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US, EU to work on WTO round

WASHINGTON—Top trade officials from the United States and the European Union said they would work together over the next several months to lay the groundwork for a successful launch of new world trade talks in November.

In a rare joint news conference, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said they would try to narrow differences that blocked negotiations from getting underway at the World Trade Organization's last ministerial meeting in Seattle in December 1999.

"We are both committed to it," Zoellick said.

But Lamy said it might be too ambitious to expect agreement on an agenda for new WTO talks by the US-EU summit meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden on June 15-16.

Both Zoellick and Lamy also said concerns of developing countries and other members of the WTO would have to be taken into consideration for trade talks to be launched.

"I frankly do not think the agenda of the round rests in the hands of an EU-US summit," Lamy said.

The WTO will hold its next ministerial meeting . *Reuters*

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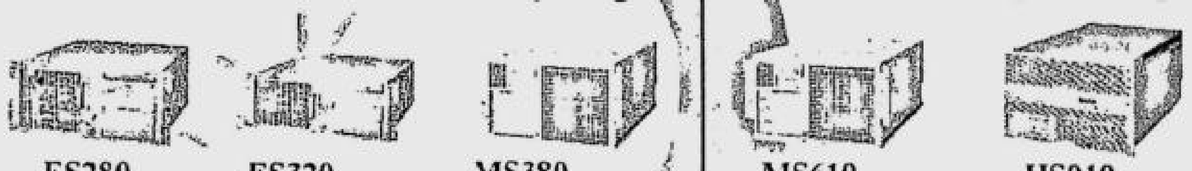

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GE pays Welch $76M

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut—John Welch Jr., General Electric Co.'s chair and chief executive, received $76 million in compensation last year, the company said Friday.

Welch's base salary was $4 million, up from $3.3 million the year before, GE reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission. He received a bonus of $12.7 million, up from $10 million the prior year, GE said.

Welch also cashed in stock appreciation rights last year, bringing his total compensation to $76 million, said Gary Sheffer, a company spokesman.

"It's in recognition of his 20 years of outstanding service as chairman and CEO of General Electric as well as his performance in 2000," Sheffer said.

General Electric reported a 29-percent increase in profits last year, earning $12.74 billion on sales of $129.85 billion.

Welch is expected to retire at the end of the year. Jeffrey Immelt, head of GE's medical systems division, will succeed him. *AP*

Intel to trim jobs

SAN JOSE, California—Shares of Intel Corp. fell more than 11 percent after the computer chip giant said revenues would be 25 percent below its fourth quarter results and it would cut its work force by 6 percent, or 5,000 jobs, mainly through attrition.

Intel executives blamed Friday's bad news on the current economic slowdown, saying it continued to affect demand for personal computers and had spread to other sectors, including networking, communications and servers.

To offset the impact of dwindled demand for personal computers, Intel has been branching out, investing in MP3 players and wireless home networking kits. It has also spent more than $7 billion to acquire more than 20 Web-hosting, network and communications infrastructure businesses. *AP*

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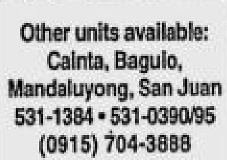

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education Culture and Sports
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

March 12, 2001
Loan No. PH-P184
IFB No. PISU-CO/182001-JBIC

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) (formerly the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Selected Public Elementary schools in the Philippines.**
2. DECS Philippines Project Implementation Support Unit for the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture.
    - a. School Desk (All Wood) - 15,267 pcs.
    - b. Tablet Armchair (All Wood) - 7,901 pcs.
    - c. Armchair (Wood & Steel) - 34,534 pcs.
3. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of school furniture to public or private elementary schools in remote areas in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and secure the bidding documents at the Pre/Post-Qualifications, Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign Assisted Projects (PBAC-FAP) with office address at 2nd Floor, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City starting **March 12, 2001**, or visit the DECS website at http://www.decs.gov.ph.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon submission of a written application to the above and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00).
6. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before 10:00 a.m. on **May 2, 2001** and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cashier's or certified check of not less than two percent (2%) of total bid amount.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m. on **May 2, 2001**, at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 26, 2001**, 10:00 a.m. at the venue indicated in paragraph 7.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and
Co-Chairman, PBAC-FAPs

(PDI March 12 & 16 2001)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of Solidbank Stock Cert. #A05940 w/310shrs class A under the name of Lolita G. Jose. If no contest r'ced, new cert. will be issued. PDI-March 5, 12, 19, 2001

PERSONAL

MAY THE SACRED HEART
of Jesus be adored, glorified
loved and preserved throughout
the world, now & forever.
Sacred Heart of Jesus pray
for us Saint Jude,
worker of miracles pray for
us. St. Jude helper for the
hopeless, pray for us.
Amen. Say this prayer
nine times a day,
by the 9th day your prayer
will be answered.
It has never been known
to fail. Publication
must be promised. DDR

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - L.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of
our new classified advertising rates
effective February 1, 2001 issue.

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12:00 noon
Day before publication

Remedios Lacerna Vda. de Taeza

Our beloved Mama
Born on April 24, 1911
Died on March 4, 2001

Nothing compares with the legacy of hope and strength Mama has left for us.
She persevered through years of sacrifice and generosity, touching countless people's lives.
We may have to face and endure an empty space in our hearts.
But we rejoice in thanksgiving to the Almighty for giving us Mama,
who is and will forever be part of our family.

With all our hearts,

The Littaua Family
Franklin & Perla; Eggy, Tere, Anton & Joe;
Tonette, Christy & Gabriel; Minnie, Earleynne, Blanca and Peter.

Please join us today, 12 March 2001, 5:45 p.m. Mass, at the Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel (Greenbelt), 5:45 p.m. Mass, as we celebrate in thanksgiving Mama's reunion with the Lord.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

Our Dearly Beloved

FRANCIS S. DOMINGO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 11, 2001 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Lina**; children **Fraline, Jacqueline** and **Ronald, Sophomore, Jocelyn**; grandchildren **Angelica Mae** and **John Bryan** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at Valencia Site, Polomolok South Cotabato.

Interment will be on March 17, 2001.

ATTY. PABLO BARTE CASTILLON

of Maribojoc, Bohol

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 7, 2001
at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Julie**; children **Josie** and **Joe**, **Tony** and **Liza**, **Cora**, **Susan**, **Jun**, **Marivic**, and **Marites**; grandchildren **Annette**, **Toby**, **Apple**, and **JR**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Solace II Chapel.

"I am the resurrection and life.
He who believes in Me will leave,
even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

FORTUNATO M. DIZON JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on March 10, 2001 at the age of 77.

His darling wife **MACING**; children **JOEL** (✝), **ROLAND & LISA MELOSANTOS, RICO, DANO** (✝), **MAI** and **BENG**; grandchildren **PRINCESS, LAUREN, VANNI, BEA** and **DANS**; brothers **FELICIANO** (✝), **SIMPLICIO** (✝), **BIENVENIDO** (✝), **OLIVER**; sisters **ELINOR, LETICIA** and **JANET**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

NATIVIDAD LEE CHUAKAY

Peacefully joined her Creator on March 11, 2001
at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Roque**; children **Ato** and **Aurea**, **Letty** and **Tyrone Tang**, **Mandy** and **Dinah**, **Lydia**, **Butch** and **Beth**, **Rene** and **Joan**; grandchildren, brother, sisters, in-laws and other relatives request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Cremation will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, March 16, 2001.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Teka, teka...

Q. What's the origin of the *teka* in the phrase '*Teka muna*'?

A. *Teka* is a shortening of the phrase '*Hintay ka.*'

What's the Difference? Wait for/Wait on/Wait up. Grammar gurus say *wait for* in the general sense of 'await the arrival of' is the only proper usage in standard English: "I'll *wait for* you until midnight." The only time *wait on* is correct is when a waiter or waitress waits on you to provide service: "Please *wait on* this customer." *Wait up*, meaning to put off going to bed until someone expected arrives or something expected happens, is also used colloquially to mean to stop and wait for someone to catch up.

Take a Tip. Going crazy trying to thread a needle? Spray a bit of hair spray on your finger and apply it to the end of the thread. The thread should stiffen just enough to ease the job of finding the needle's eye.

For the Record. In 1989 Katumori Iwatsuki of Japan patended his "Halitosis Detector Device." After determining the chemical composition of a person's exhalation sample, the device produces a signal corresponding to the malodorous degree of bad breath. The word 'halitosis,' by the way, derives—etymologically, that is—from the Latin *halitus*, meaning "breath."

WORD WATCH

Anghit : from the Malay *angit*, 'odor of something burning.'

PDI – March 12, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Tuguegarao City
☎ 844-1748, 844-55-14, 844-5341 & 844-5178
e-mail address: dohreg2@cag.pworld.com.ph
Fax no. 846-7230 & 846-7240

INVITATION TO BID

The DOH-Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley hereby invites interested suppliers to provide drugs and medicines, medical, laboratory and dental supplies to this Office.

Interested suppliers who can provide the above-mentioned items may obtain documents from the Secretariat upon presentation of the original and photocopy of DOH Certificate of Suppliers Accreditation, License to Operate, Certificate of Product Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P800.00.

1. Pre-qualification and Issuance of bid/tender documents	**March 26** to **March 30, 2001** 12:00 p.m.
2. Pre-bid conference	**March 30, 2001** (1:00 p.m.)
3. Submission and opening of bids	**April 18, 2001** (9:00 a.m.)

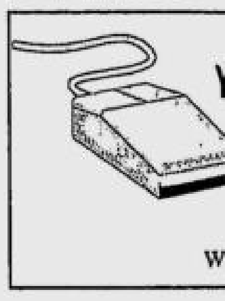
Venue:

DOH-Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City
Main Conference Hall

The DOH-CHD for Cagayan Valley reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept such bids as maybe advantageous and responsive to the needs of this Office. For more details, call 844-1748 Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **MERCEDITAS V. CAVANEYRO, MD, MPH, MPA, CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI – March 12, 13 & 14, 2001)



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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

One (1) Year Term Contract for Brokerage Services and for the Preparation, Notarization and Documentation of Import Entry Declaration (IED) from **May 1, 2001** to **May 1, 2002** with the following schedules:

	PRE BID Date/Time	BID OPENING Date/Time
Schedule I - Air	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/9:00 a.m.
Schedule II - Ocean	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/1:30 p.m.
Schedule III - IED	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/4:00 p.m.

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Warehouse, Traffic, Transhipment and Disposal Section (WTTDS)—NLRO, 3rd Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Accreditation Forms can be obtained starting **March 12, 2001** at the same office upon payment of PhP50.00 and submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at any telephone directory. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification forms and documentary requirements shall be not later than 5:00 p.m. (official time is WTTDS clock) of **March 20, 2001.**

Bidding documents are available upon payment of PhP100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable presentation of valid Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents is on **March 30, 2001.**

For details, please call WTTDS at (074) 445-4541 to 44.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

Administrative Services Division
NPC—NLRO (GENCO 2/NL TRANSCO)

(PDI – March 10 & 12, 2001)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES ESPINOSA, Asst. Editor

WorldroomEvents, Compaq team up to make event planning easier

ON-LINE event planning service WorldroomEvents and Compaq (Asia) Ltd. have teamed up to make it easier and more rewarding for organizers to leverage the benefits of planning their events through the Internet.

Event planners who use the free online tools of WorldroomEvents (www.worldroomevents.com) to select event venues become eligible to win a Compaq Armada laptop computer or an iPaq Pocket PC.

"Compaq is the hardware supplier of choice for those holding events and we are delighted to partner with them to introduce more planners to our unique features," said WorldroomEvents president Tina Nepomuceno-Di Cicco. "Our free tools include unique venue search and RFP (request for proposal) tools that can save planners time and money."

WorldroomEvents is a partnership between I-Quest Corp., the leading provider of broadband Internet solutions for the travel industry, and Reed Travel & Meetings (Asia). The joint online B2B destination targets event planners, meeting organizers, suppliers and others in the fast-growing meetings, incentives, exhibition and convention (MICE) industry worldwide.

It is the only on-line service for event planners that concentrates on Asia and Europe. It includes a database of more than 1,500 venues and facilities and rich tools including a search engine with pre-set criteria, enabling interactive RFPs exactly tailored to the planner's requirement.

In addition to the chance to win a Compaq laptop or iPaq Pocket PC, professionals who buy any Compaq product through the WorldroomEvents web site automatically receive a special gift.

To qualify to win a Compaq laptop or iPac Pocket PC, a planner organizing an event for 10 or more participants must simply use the Venue Search and RFP tools found at the WorldroomEvents web site to book the event.

After the booking is finalized with any of the more than 1,500 venues on the WorldroomEvents site, the planner must send a copy of the RFP and proof of payment to the venue by email to inquiries@worldroomevents.com.

Each successful event booking earns one point, and the planner with the most points by December 31, 2001 wins the Compaq Armada laptop. The planner who books the most number of roomnights, meeting rooms, convention halls or a combination of each wins the iPaq Pocket PC.

The contest is one in a series of joint projects WorldroomEvents plans with Compaq.

THE GLOBE TELECOM
Academic Achievement Awards
NOKIA

NOKIA BACKS GLOBE FOR 6TH GTAA

Global mobile phone provider Nokia has signed up as one of the major sponsors in the 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards. For the six straight years now, Nokia has supported GTAA – Globe's core social responsibility program promoting student excellence. Shown formalizing the sponsorship agreement are (from left) Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Globe Telecom AVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima, Nokia Philippines account director Tapani Sairanen and Nokia Philippines project Michael Ratcliffe. GTAA is the only annual industry-academe linkage program in the telecoms and IT industries. It has honored a total of 66 Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) and Electrical Engineering (EE) college graduates and 62 high school graduates who have excelled in Science and Math.

Active Fluoride

TEEN MILLIONAIRE

Seventeen-year old Niño Bajaros (second from right) is a regular junior high school student from Barangay Linis, Jala-Jala, Rizal. Just a couple of days before Christmas, his name was chosen from among the mountains of entries for the "Doble Milyonaryo" promo sponsored by QuickChow and Beam toothpaste. Niño was just supposed to win P500,000 but as the mechanics stated, the prize was to be doubled if your entry with QuickChow proofs of purchase had a carton of Beam toothpaste. Niño, shown here with his father and brother is being congratulated by Tet del Rosario, product manager of QuickChow, as he receives his check for P1 million.

P9M up for grabs in the Nescafé Classic raffle promo

THE Nescafé Classic Breakfast Papremyo raffle promo is giving away prizes totaling to P9 million.

Prepare breakfast in your new kitchen or enjoy it in your new bedroom because beginning March 13 nine weekly raffle draw prizes of bedroom showcases or kitchen showcases will be given away. For the grand raffle, nine trips for two to Paris, France will be given away and a brand new house and lot worth P2 million is at stake.

It's so easy to join. Simply write your name, address, signature, telephone number and promo title "Nescafé Classic Breakfast Papremyo" at the back of any empty Nescafé Classic refill packs, membrane foils and box tops. Drop your entries in Nescafé Classic Breakfast Pepremyo raffle boxes located at selected supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide.

Or you can join the weekly game show portion in "Eat Bulaga" and get a chance to win cash prizes. Simply drop your entries in drop boxes at the Tape Studios, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., corner Aurora Blvd., Quezon City. Only those who drop their entries at the Tape Studios will qualify as studio contestants.

Studio contestants will be predrawn every week. Their names, along with the schedule of the game, will be announced at "Eat Bulaga" a week prior to the next game episode. Non-winning entries will automatically qualify for the grand draw.

The nationwide grand raffle draw will be held at "Eat Bulaga" on May 19. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw is on May 12, 2001.

BURGER KING MORAYTA INAUGURATION

Burger King officials in the company of the wards at the Tahanan ng mga Batang Kapatiran whom they treated at their Morayta restaurant on its inauguration and blessing. With the street children are (standing, from left) marketing director Achie Chanyungco-Sy, HRD manager Rhoda Flores, operations director Robbie Yom, and PERF, Inc. president Raul Nazareno.

SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE

SEATTLE'S BEST IN MANDALUYONG

Seattle's Best Coffee (SBC) recently opened its doors to coffee lovers in SM Megamall. Coffee Masters Inc. executives paid a courtesy visit to Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos (second from left). From left: Vic Gregorio, Coffee Master's Inc. marketing manager; Vicky Zach, Seattle's Best Coffee international marketing director; Edith Alejo, assistant café manager, and Jun Lopez, café manager SBC Megamall.

Visitor's Guide to the Philippines: A must-have travel magazine this summer

WONDERING where to spend the summer season? Check out the maiden issue of the Visitor's Guide To The Philippines, the newest quarterly travel publication that aims to promote Philippine tourism. And find the best Holy Week destination and the hottest summer spots in country.

And since this is the season for family getaways, the new Visitor's Guide To The Philippines has some perfectly sound and cool travel suggestions as it features top vacation spots in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, while giving pointers on where to stay and where to go during the fiesta season.

The publication will likewise feature a celebrity writer as he talks about his beloved hometown. Features will include whale watching in Baler, nightlife in the new Ermita, theme restaurants and cafes, bargain shopping, cruising tips, travel promos and a lot more.

The maiden issue of the Visitors Guide To The Philippines will be available in major bookstores, bookstands and hotel kiosks nationwide. For subscription and advertising inquiries, call the publishers, Integrated Marketing Services Phils. Inc. at 524-6601 to 06.

ON CAMPUS!
present
LASTIKO ORDINARY PEOPLE
BARBIE'S CRADLE
CLOSE-UP

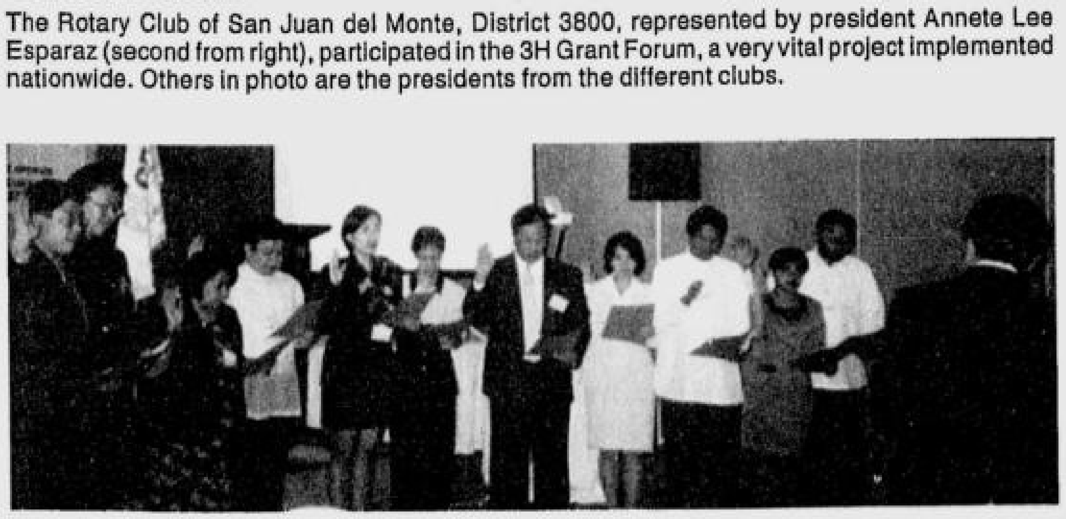
'BRING ME' CONTEST

Students from the University of Santo Tomas – College of Pharmacy, cheered and voted for girls who wore the sexiest outfit during the dwLL/ Mellow Touch 94.7's On Campus Tour. The "Bring Me" contest was one of the games during the school tour. UST was the fifth campus to be visited – the first four included UP Diliman, Ateneo, DLSU-CSB and AMA College. The bands featured were Lastiki, Put3ska, Ordinary People and Barbie's Cradle. The girls are joined in this photo by dwLL Willy Smith (right) and newscaster Ruth (left).

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3800
VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTATION
& PREVENTABLE B… FORUM
WELCOME

GRANT FORUM

The Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte, District 3800, represented by president Annete Lee Esparaz (second from right), participated in the 3H Grant Forum, a very vital project implemented nationwide. Others in photo are the presidents from the different clubs.



CPSP INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) 2001 Board of Directors (from left) secretary Richard Dennis Tan (Jade Internet), Ramon Santos (Planters Products, Inc.), treasurer Enriqueta Disuanco (GSIS), first VP Jun Bernardo (Pilipinas Shell), CPSP 2001 president Pamela Ann Da Silva (San Miguel Corp.) second VP Annie Mendoza (UA&P), Ramon Duremdes (Raymond Rogers, Inc.), Gina Macatangay (Globe Telecom), Fernando Martinez (Eastern Petroleum Corp.), Portia Sto. Domingo (Philamlife) and Alex Escucha (China Bank) are inducted into office by deputy executive secretary for legal affairs lawyer Jose T. Tale during the CPSP First General Membership meeting held recently.

BITS & Clips

Tutorial center opens branch in Greenhills

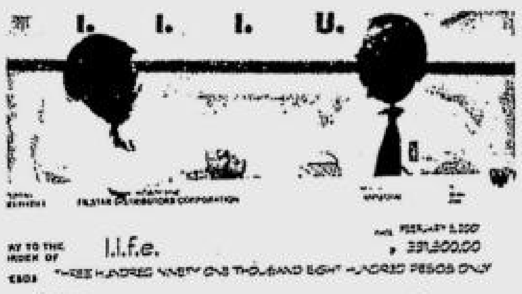
AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center just opened its newest branch in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Located at the second floor of the Providence Building along Annapolis Street, the branch will service the tutorial and review needs of students of nearby schools. Ahead offers tutorial services to students of all ages, in all subjects and at all levels. It specializes in one-on-one tutorials and offers home-based tutorials aside from the much recommended center-based tutorials. There are tutorial sessions for academic subjects, languages and computer operations. Ahead's main office may be reached at 426-0034 to 36, its new Greenhills office at 722-7258.

Courses on English language, management, personality dev't

THE ENGLISH Language Proficiency Training Center will conduct training sessions on various courses at the Manila Diamond Hotel, Onyx Function Room, Roxas Boulevard, Manila starting March 19, 2001. Courses offered include Basic English Grammar, Oral Communications, Technical Writing, Feature Writing and Personality Development. Management courses include Accounting for Non-Accountants, Time Management, Financial Management, Credit Management and Performance Appraisal, among others. Interested parties may call 750-1715 or 843-4991 to 95 for complete course description.

Course on fundamentals of musicianship

THE MIRIAM College Center for Applied Music will offer a course on fundamentals of musicianship from April 16 to May 17. The offering is an integrated course for music teachers in the grade school level. Ruby Salvoza, who has a master's degree in Music Education from the University of the Philippines will teach the course. Miriam Center for Applied Music also offers courses in piano, voice, violin, flute, guitar, cello and music theory. For details, call 426-1822 or Miriam College at 927-2421 loc. 218.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HALLMARK DONATES TO LIFE

Filstar Distributors Corporation, local licensee of Hallmark greeting cards, recently turned over a check donation worth almost P400,000 to the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (LIFE) in culmination of the fifth year of the Hallmark for Life project. Shown are (from left) LIFE chair Dr. Alendry Caviles Jr. and Filstar president Maximo Licauco III.

DLSU-D librarian heads PAARL

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Acedemic Librarians (PARRL) recently elected a new set of officers during its annual general assembly held at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU) campus. Elected president is Maribeth Aguila, director of DLSU-D's Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo.

Aguila said that her priority projects for the association include the holding of conferences that aim to determine the future of academic libraries as an agent of change; reaching out and extending membership to as many librarians as possible; and continuously develop the PAARL Net – a network of academic and research libraries. PAARL is one of the largest associations of certified librarians in the country. Its members come from learning centers of tertiary schools as well as research institutions.

Use of Philippines' 'ph' domain name draws arguments

By Joey G. Alarilla

AS the Philippines prepares to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Internet in the country on March 29, rumblings against the current operator of the .PH domain are growing among several members of the local online community.

DotPH Inc., the administrator of the .PH country code top-level domain (ccTLD) has been getting a lot of flak from Filipino Netizens for alleged abuses, including spamming and the marketing of .PH as a global domain for phone companies, in the same manner that .TV, which is supposed to be used by the island nation of Tuvalu, has been appropriated by streaming video sites.

The issue has been extensively discussed in the Philippine Cyberspace Review (PH-Cyberview) e-mail discussion group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ph-cyberview. PH-Cyberview is moderated by Jim Ayson, one of the country's Internet pioneers and founder of PhilMusic.com.

As an informal community, however, what are the members of PH-Cyberview planning to do about the alleged abuses?

"As you pointed out, PH-Cyberview is at its heart a discussion group that was put up to discuss and eventually record the continually evolving 'State of the Net in the Philippines.' It is not a foundation or formal organization (though lately I have been thinking it's probably opportune to put up a more formal group around it). However, we can establish a case through our discussions and then elevate the issue to sympathetic organizations to pick up and reach out to the general public and ultimately the Philippine government (which has been blissfully ignorant of the DNS situation based on its almost total exclusion in IT policy documents)," Ayson told the INQUIRER via e-mail.

Another PH-Cyberview list member, Jonathan Domingo of the consumer advocacy group the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc., hopes to help clear the air between parties involved through the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) Legal Cluster Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, which he co-chairs. The ITECC is the country's highest information and communications technology policymaking body, with convenors from the private sector volunteering to spearhead the initiatives of the different legal cluster subcommittees to help in the implementation of the E-Commerce Act of 2000.

"We hope to be able to address whatever issues can be threshed out. We'll also see if there's any cause for further action, and if so what action to take then," Domingo said.

One of the issues that has been raised against DotPH is alleged spamming or sending of unwanted e-mail. Subscribers of the PH-Cyberview mailing list have alleged that DotPH uses information gathered from domain name registration for the human resource and marketing campaigns of DotPH and its sister company, Internet service provider EMC, which is also owned by Joel Disini, one of the country's Internet pioneers.

While saying that spamming is one of the issues the subcommittee hopes to address, Domingo explained that the Philippines does not yet have specific provisions against spamming.

"Nothing as far as I know. The concept of spam hasn't even reached the minds of our legislators yet, it seems. There is a provision in the E-Commerce Law that prohibits against willful interference of another's computer system, but I'm just not sure if that could be applied to spam. Perhaps if the spam were voluminous enough, it could be," Domingo said.

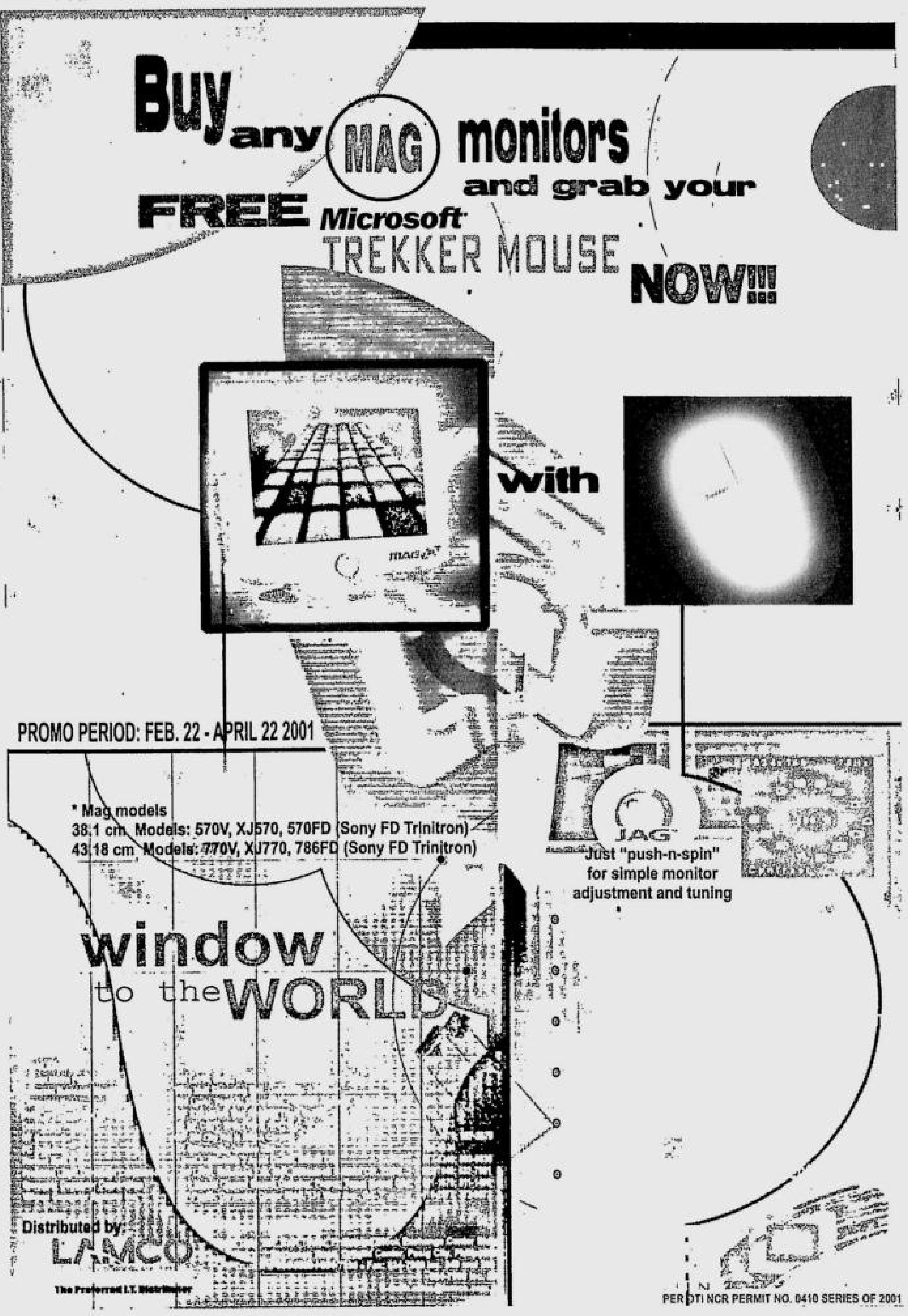
The INQUIRER tried to reach Disini for comments, but it was DotPH spokesperson Emil Avanceña who gave DotPH's side.

"This is simply not true. DotPH does not use the information in the registry database for spamming or marketing purposes. We use more conventional sources for getting contact information, such as business cards. In one particular instance, we sent recruitment e-mail to 12 people using the contact info on their business cards. Someone responded and cc'd (copy furnished) a whole list of other people in their response—so all the people cc'd probably assumed that we were the ones who had 'spammed' them. DotPH does not advocate the use of spamming as a marketing tool," Avanceña explained.

Avanceña also denied reports that foreign investors are now funding DotPH. He also defended the DotPHone strategy of marketing the ccTLD as a global domain for phone companies.

"ICANN (Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers) has made it clear that the .PH ccTLD is not just a resource for the local community, but is also a resource for the global community. The Best Practices Draft on the ICANN website clearly states this. Jon Postel himself, was even

USE/ p.B19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RP still . . .

(From page B19)

fourth quarter of last year or early this year. While the country's leading mobile phone service operators Smart Communications and Globe Telecom have said that they are prepared for GPRS, the launch of this service in the Philippines is still up in the air. Perhaps for a good reason, because current WAP (wireless application protocol) handsets would have to be replaced by GPRS phones, and WAP hasn't even really taken off in the Philippines as in elsewhere.

"Well, it's (the WAP market) there, but it's not performing as expected. That's my point of view. So GPRS is something that should be carefully examined," said Marcelino A. Banaria Jr., senior vice president for Information and Communication Mobile of Siemens Inc.

Both Binder and Banaria agreed that current WAP applications have yet to attract the bulk of Filipino mobile users.

"The killer app is not yet there. If it's hype, there should be something behind it. Of course, I agree that there's e- to m-commerce," he said, stressing, however, that operators would have to offer more compelling applications for WAP to proliferate.

He declined to say, however, whether he would advice operators to put off GPRS in the meantime and concentrate on building the market for current WAP handsets.

"It's not our role. We're ready to supply but it really depends on their timetable (for introducing GPRS). The technology is there," Banaria said.

He said, however, that development of new applications and wider availability of the enabling technology would combine to create more sophisticated mobile phone users.

Right now, he agreed that SMS and compatibility of graphics between different operators are the functionality that concern the average mobile phone user in the Philippines, rather than WAP capability.

"Your use of the phone will evolve to the point where you compare the functionality of your phone unit vis-à-vis the network," Banaria said.

In the end, content will also push more companies down the road to convergence, as the need to deliver and manage content from a bewildering array of sources becomes more pressing.

Binder acknowledged that sites like INQ7.net, a joint venture between the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc., are an example of how new content is pushing the envelope for convergence. In fact, the multimedia applications that the site is and will offer is mainly appreciated outside the Philippines, though the site is betting that broadband will soon explode in the country.

Waiting for convergence? Who knows, it might not come with a bang, but quietly as each piece falls into place. So slowly but surely that you might not even realize the future is already here.

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iomega

Internet 'dad' aims to bring cyberspace to outer space

(From page B20)

What do you hate most about the current incarnation of the Internet? What new development would you most like to see becoming a reality soon and what's your vision for the future Internet?

I'd like higher capacity more widely available at the edges of the Net and I'd like to see a lot more resilience and robustness to all the systems that it supports and that support it. It's becoming a major, global infrastructure and it has to become increasingly reliable to fulfill its real promise.

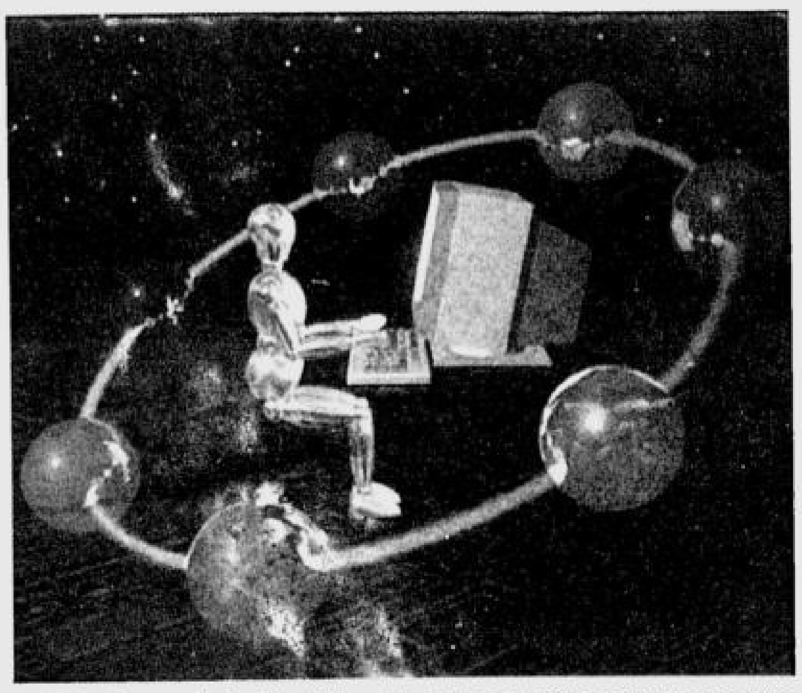
I think the Internet of the future will have billions of appliances attached to it and that it will support considerable mobility. I'm excited about the plans to extend the Internet into outer space through the interplanetary Internet project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. That effort is seeking to extend Internet protocols to operate effectively across vast interplanetary distances, allowing users here on this planet to have access to the information gathered by space vehicles, satellites and robotic devices sent to other planets, satellites and asteroids in our solar system.

As the new chair of the ICANN board, what would you like the organization to accomplish within the first six months? How would you assess the role that ICANN has played so far and in which areas do you see room for improvement?

I would like to focus the organization on assuring that the operators of the Internet's domain name components, including root servers, registries and registrars, are technically sound and interoperable.

I'd like to assure that there are technical standards so that a failure in the business operation of a registry does not adversely affect users registered in the TLD (top-level domain) associated with that registry (that it is possible for another operator to take up the database and continue service if need be). I would certainly like to come to closure with the ccTLD (country-code top-level domain) operators and other interested parties on the funding model for ICANN operation.

I think ICANN has done remarkably well considering the complexity of its tasks and the political, economic and social debates that have surrounded its creation and operation. It would be helpful to find ways to clearly contain the scope of ICANN's responsibilities. Many people are tempted to put on ICANN's policy plate issues that are really outside its charter and better dealt with in alternative forums.



VINT Cerf, regarded as the father of the Internet, being codeveloper of the TCP/IP protocol which is the language of the Net, is working with Nasa to create an interplanetary Internet backbone. So if you've always thought that your mother-in-law looks like someone who comes from Uranus, now's the time to e-mail her what you feel.

How would you respond to claims that ICANN has too much power and that it places more value on big businesses rather than individuals?

First, ICANN has a very limited scope of responsibility: overseeing the operation of the domain name system and the allocation of IP address space.

Second, the Internet as a global system has to be self-supporting and that means, for the most part, it needs to be made up of parts that either are successful businesses or involve other means of support, including volunteer efforts. To the extent that ICANN is responsible to everyone for assuring robust operation of the domain name environment, ICANN is essentially neutral. I am not aware of any big business bias in the policies developed thus far.

Do you think that more countries will soon be able to cross the digital divide that separates them from technologically advanced nations? Do you think that the digital haves also have a responsibility to help the digital have-nots?

I hope that cost trends for software, hardware and service will expand the range of users that can afford Internet access. I hope that governments will take steps to support public access to the Internet in libraries, schools and other public places. I think that it is important to find ways to sustain Internet deployment in areas where the Internet is not yet accessible. It isn't clear to me that the "haves" have all the answers for the "have-nots." Rather, I think we need to help educate and support indigenous efforts to put the Internet in place. I'm a big fan of local entrepreneurial efforts to bring the Internet into being in the developing world.

Could you talk about your role in the interplanetary Internet and how soon you expect it to become a reality? I know this would involve satellites and evolving broadband technologies, but could you explain your vision for extending the Internet to other planets?

The team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory with which I work has designed extensions to the Internet protocols to allow operation across interplanetary distances. Prototype software has been implemented and tests are planned with near-Earth orbiting satellites and simulation of the system to validate operation on a larger scale. By 2003, it is hoped that the new protocols will be on board the rovers scheduled to be launched that year to Mars.

In general, the concept is to include interplanetary Internet protocols on board all new deep space mission vehicles so that they can be integrated into a growing "interplanetary backbone" over time. This is an incremental project that will likely consume decades of step-by-step growth.

SC to amend rules to boost RP e-commerce

THE SUPREME Court expects to finish amending provisions of existing Philippine Rules of Court related to implementation of the E-commerce Law by the second half of the year, according to officials.

The highest judicial body last month created a subcommittee on e-commerce under the committee on the revision of the rules of court. The group is chaired by Justice Jesus Elbinias.

"The subcommittee will study current rules of court and propose amendments or even draft new provisions in order to appropriately embody the purposes of the E-Commerce Law," according to Ivan John Enrile Uy, vice chair of the subcommittee and director for management information systems of the Office of the Chief Justice.

Under the E-Commerce Law, electronic documents are now accepted as evidence in local courts.

"The law provides for the first time, the recognition of electronic documents and signatures. New provisions would have to be made in the Rules of Court in order to address these new developments. Our rules only recognize paper documents (as evidence in courts)," Uy said.

Uy said that the amendments or the new provisions would also deal with issues on jurisdiction especially in cases of dispute settlement and digital notarization, among others.

Meanwhile, Uy disclosed that the Supreme Court intends to discuss the establishment and implementation of a system for electronic filing of court cases soon. *Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva*

Plunging IT . . .

(From page B20)

can and European markets, Asia will also continue to embrace mobile commerce and Internet connectivity up to the point of hysteria," Ng said.

This is a particularly good development for the region, and despite license and standard issues, companies directly or indirectly involved in mobile Internet connectivity are expected to pour in the dollars in promotion and marketing efforts for upcoming cellular phones, personal digital assistants and other handheld devices which allow Internet access.

"Advertising dollars are expected to come in as manufacturers and vendors scramble to promote and market their next-generation communications products," Ng said.

She added that in the middle of the hype, it would be up to the manufacturers of these devices to supply an expected surge in demand, as third generation (3G) wireless technology, which will allow for multimedia content to be accessed via a cellular phone, makes a grand entry in the region.

Thanks largely to Napster, the music file swapping company, P2P computing will become the buzzword although acceptance of the technology will not be as early as anticipated.

According to Ng, P2P will become a "red-hot buzzword," but will get the cold shoulder treatment from enterprise users who will continue to stick it out with the client-server paradigm, where control of computing resources is centralized, unlike in a P2P setup.

In the middle of the Internet and P2P frenzy, Ng said Internet security solutions will take the centerstage as users become more proactive in protecting themselves from the Internet, thereby increasing the need for security solutions.

Further, "old" computing paradigms, or those which showed promising potentials at least a year ago, will also make a dramatic comeback.

Ng said there will be a reemergence of the applications service provider (ASP) model, a renewed interest for customer relationship management (CRM) applications and IP telephony.

FUJITSU

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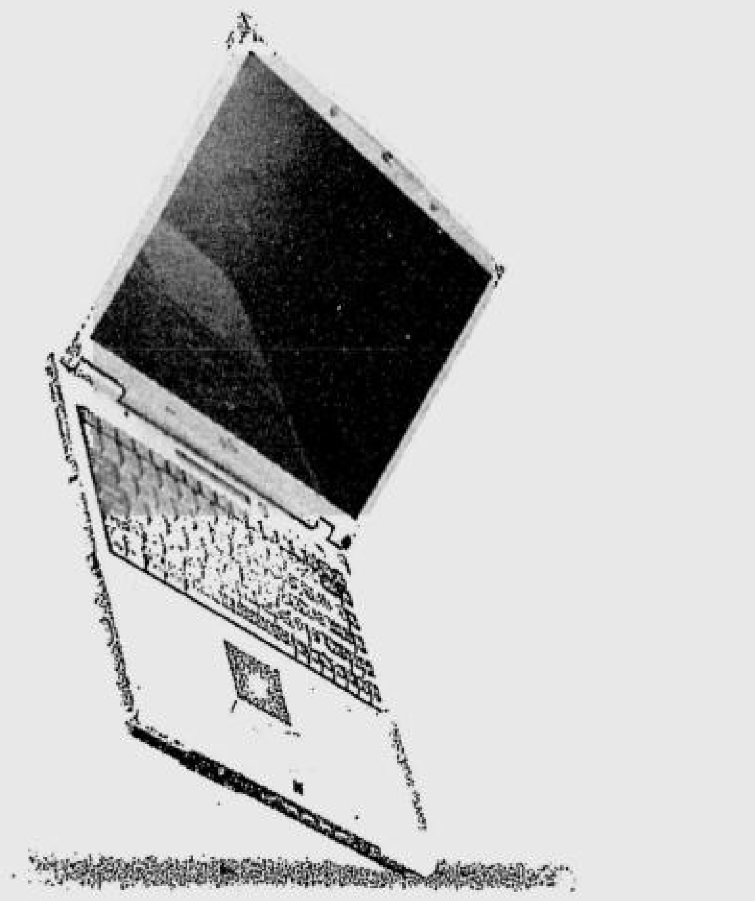

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RP still looking for 'holy grail' of convergence

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

LAOAG, Ilocos Norte—Everybody knows that the future lies in convergence. It's just that nobody knows exactly when convergence will truly arrive in the Philippines—or in other countries, for that matter.

"So far, there is no convergence taking place in the Philippines. Our products are a little ahead of their time in the Philippines. But it's just a question of time," said Günther Binder, senior vice president for Information and Communication Networks of Siemens Inc.

Almost a year ago, Siemens Inc. already launched in the country its Surpass suite of solutions to help traditional telephone companies migrate their networks to a converged network—a single broadband platform supporting voice, data and video applications. In heralding the arrival of the next generation network and declaring that the future of telcos is in Internet protocol (IP)-based backbones, Siemens, like its competitors, was voicing the convergence mantra that the information technology (IT) community has learned by heart over the past several years. Many companies honestly believed last year, like the year before that, that convergence would finally take place in the Philippines. Like the Holy Grail, however, convergence still beckons as a seemingly faraway goal, though the pieces are admittedly falling into place.

Binder, however, remains optimistic that convergence is almost within reach in the country, though admitting that no company in the Philippines has yet deployed its Siemens' Surpass solution. He claimed, however, that in the whole world, only one telco already has a converged network, Swiss Telecom (Swisscom), and that Siemens was a partner in this great leap forward into convergence. Incidentally, however, when one checks out the Swisscom website, one of the most recent press releases is an item dated Feb. 9 warning to customers from Swisscom and Siemens Switzerland about defective ISDN (integrated services digital network) network termination units supplied by Siemens Switzerland.

"I expect convergence to take off (in the Philippines) this year," Binder said, saying that this would be seen in both the network infrastructure and content side. Binder acknowledged as a major boost to convergence the acquisition of a majority stake in GMA Network by Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) beneficial trust fund. He said that not only PLDT but also other Philippine telcos would experience further pressure to improve their operations by migrating to a single converged network.

After all, instead of managing several networks, a single broadband converged backbone can support different channels, resulting in greater efficiency.

On Feb. 22, Siemens acquired Dallas-based networking company Efficient Networks Inc. for $1.5 billion, which Binder said would complete their portfolio for end-to-end broadband access. Efficient, a broadband digital subscriber line (DSL) solutions provider, offers modems and small routers in its product line.

Binder stressed that convergence should not be seen in terms of product upgrades, whether on the backend or the client side such as mobile phones, but rather as the evolution into mobile business. In other words, access to any information anytime, using different devices.

To make mobile business a reality, mobile phone providers and operators are hyping the coming of third-generation networks and applications or 3G. On the way to this mobile phone Holy Grail, the transition would consist of more powerful handsets supported by a packet switching-based mobile network technology called General Packet Radio Service (GPRS).

GPRS will offer speeds of up to 171.2 kilobits per second, though it is still not 3G. GPRS, however, will lead the way to the 3G technology called UMTS or Universal Mobile Telecommunications System, which supports data rates up to and possibly higher than 2 megabits per second.

Originally, GPRS was supposed to come out commercially in the

RP/ p.B17

WHAT IS?

3G—Short for third-generation mobile phone service, which promises faster data transfer rates which can handle video over cell phones.

Is there a crisis of leadership at DOST?

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

THE DEPARTMENT of Science and Technology (DOST) remains a "headless" agency after Filemon Uriarte Jr. decided not to accept his reappointment as science secretary last month.

Fourteen DOST regional directors recently gave their vote of confidence to Undersecretary Leopoldo Lazatin. Uriarte, however, has endorsed acting Science Secretary Rogelio Panlasigui to the Cabinet post. Lazatin is undersecretary for regional operations, administrative and legal affairs, while Panlasigui is undersecretary for research and development.

Panlasigui has been acting science secretary since Uriarte's resignation late last year from the Cabinet of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"We expect that people will have their own choices for secretary but I hope their choices are still part of the original individuals endorsed by the agency's management committee," Panlasigui said when asked about the regional director's endorsement of Lazatin. "Everybody is entitled to his or her own choice. But that does not mean a rejection of other choices."

"I still have received no word from Malacañang but I think that the President's search committee is still looking for a replacement," Panlasigui added. "I would be honored if Malacañang chooses me. But I'm not the type of person who seeks the position. In the first place, I'm a career officer. I'm always prepared to serve the government."

Panlasigui reportedly garnered the most votes during the management committee meeting on Feb. 20. The committee, which is composed of the officials of the DOST and its attached agencies, includes more than 30 members. Lazatin was four votes behind Panlasigui.

Under the voting process, members of the management committee list down the names of their choice for Cabinet secretary. A single member can actually vote for both Panlasigui and Lazatin, if their names are included in his or her list of possible choices.

Amid the search for a leader, Panlasigui believes that the agency's medium-term plan until 2004 remains unchanged.

"I've been with the agency for 10 years and was also part of the creation of the medium-term plan so I think our plans will not be affected by the current situation at the agency," Panlasigui added.

The management committee and the regional directors are scheduled to meet next week to discuss the DOST's budget and activities. Panlasigui said that there is no specific agenda that would discuss the unanimous endorsement of Lazatin by the regional directors.

Use . . .

(From page B17)

quoted by the Wall Street Journal as approving of the efforts of some ccTLDs to market their domains actively outside their country.

"To this end, DotTV is calling itself 'the domain for Streaming Media' and Mauritius (MU) is calling itself the MUsic domain. Niue (NU) is calling itself the 'New' domain, and Cocos and Keeling Island (CC) will soon be marketing itself as the Credit Card Domain. Moldova (MD) is calling itself the domain for Healthcare, and Tonga (TO) has similar plans. DotPH is taking this a step further, and is actually putting some very innovative PHone features on the PH domain.

"We need to build the brand worldwide, we need to hire the very best talent we can get, we need to build some world-class m-commerce (mobile e-commerce) solutions for the telcos. If we are to compete effectively against the 7 new gTLDs (.BIZ, .NOM, .AERO, etc.) that ICANN has approved, we will need to be world-class," Avanceña claimed.

Ayson, however, sees the matter differently.

"Personally, I prefer people to think of 'Philippines' rather than 'Phones' when they see .PH. I think turning our domain into a commercial top-level domain will make us the laughingstock in the region and we can't be considered a serious player because of that. And the Net community and the Philippine government should have a say about how .PH is used, not just leave it to the arbitrary decisions of a private corporation," Ayson said.

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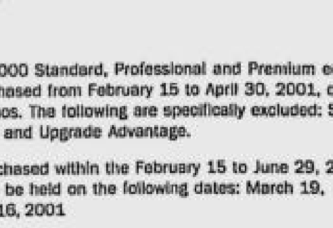

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Plunging IT stocks, mobile commerce, P2P computing to increase in 2001

BY JOEL D. PINAROC

SINGAPORE—A continued slowdown in information technology (IT)-related spending throughout the Southeast Asian region, the nonrecovery of Internet stocks, the hype around mobile commerce (or m-commerce) and Internet connectivity, and the emergence of peer-to-peer (P2P) computing will highlight the year 2001, according to global research firm International Data Corp. The results of the IDC were bared at a regional press conference here.

Sandra Ng, vice president for communications and research at IDC Asia Pacific, said there are indications that these predictions are now manifesting themselves throughout the region.

For starters, Ng said, investment for the region will continue to slow down due largely to the after-effects of the currency crunch in 1997 and 1998 and the ongoing political instabilities in some countries.

Ng said most of the IT spending is expected to come from infrastructure projects, which could occasionally contribute to the increase in IT spending on some Asian countries.

"What happens in these infrastructure projects is that they do not have a regular cycle. One quarter you might see one company actively investing in infrastructure projects. The next quarter, you might see the same company practically dormant in its spending," Ng said.

Ng also said Asian Internet stocks will continue to plunge, although not as bad as the dotcom crash at Nasdaq. She added that a recovery may not come in the immediate future.

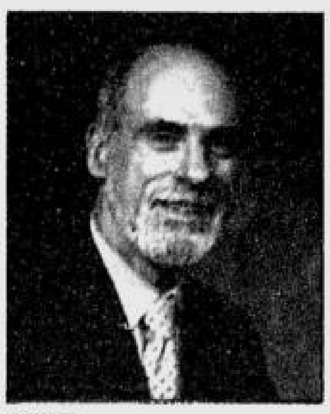
"Internet stocks will not stage a comeback," Ng said, stressing that there would have to be a recovery period parallel to the PC crash of 1983, where then-PC leader Apple Computer had to practically crawl on its belly before making a recovery years after it plunged. She also said dotcoms are expected to go back to some brick-and-mortar basics before a full recovery is to be achieved.

In the middle of these bleak forecasts, Ng said investment for e-business will continue despite the failure of Internet stocks.

"Compared to the North Ameri-

PLUNGING/ p.B18

Internet 'dad' aims to bring cyberspace to outer space



CERF

In a rare interview, the man generally regarded as the 'father of the Internet' bares his plans about his brainchild. No, we're not talking about Al Gore

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

THE INTERNET has already conquered the world. Now, the Net is ready to take on other planets. It is only fitting, then, that one of the Net's founding fathers is helping make this interplanetary Internet a reality.

Meet Vint Cerf, senior vice president of Internet Architecture and Technology at MCI WorldCom, the US-based global communications giant that owns UUNET, one of the industry's biggest Internet service providers.

More important, Cerf and Robert E. Kahn co-developed TCP/IP (transaction control protocol/ Internet protocol), the basic language of the Internet. The TCP part is what breaks down information into manageable packets for transmission over the Internet, reassembling them into the original message at their destination. Meanwhile, the IP part is what ensures that the packets get to the right destination; which is why we talk of IP addresses.

No wonder, then, that people have dubbed Cerf the "father of the Internet," though he himself is the first to point out the role of Kahn and other pioneers, particularly the creators of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network or Arpanet. Arpanet, the first incarnation of the Internet, went live in 1969. Arpanet originally ran on the protocol known as network control program (NCP). In December 1974, the first full draft of TCP was released, leading to the gradual creation of TCP/IP in the late '70s. Arpa became Darpa under the US Defense Department, and Cerf worked at Darpa from 1976 to 1982, developing the new protocols and Internet security technologies. By January 1983, TCP/IP became the standard and NCP was banned from Arpanet. The modern Internet was born.

These days, Cerf is working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on a project to extend the Internet to outer space. By designing new protocols for an interplanetary Internet, Cerf sees people one day accessing information from Internet-enabled space probes and other interplanetary vehicles.. Talk about putting the space in cyberspace.

On more down-to-earth matters, starting November last year, Cerf assumed the post of chair of the board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). ICANN is the global, non-profit organization that oversees the Internet domain name system and the allocation of IP address space.

Here's what "Dad" has to say about the Net's future:

As one of the fathers of the Internet, are you amazed by the growth of your baby? Back then, did you think that it would evolve into a global network that would change the way we work and live?

I was not thinking in such global terms 28 years ago although it is fair to say that the project took place in an international setting as we had colleagues in the UK, Norway, Germany, France, Japan and Italy who worked with us either as part of the Darpa-sponsored effort or in my laboratory at Stanford. E-mail had already become a key service when the Internet protocol (IP) work started in 1973 and I think most of us were convinced very early on as to its utility for business, research and personal communication.

Still, the PC was several years in the future, Ethernet was a one-of-a-kind at Xerox PARC (Palo Alto Research Center), so the possibility that the general public would have access to all this was at best a remotely imaginable idea. These technologies did change the way we worked in the research community so I think we were very conscious of the power of the technology even as far back as 1973 or earlier.

INTERNET/ p. B18

CEO of YAHOO! to step down

SAN JOSE, California—Former dotcom darling Yahoo! Inc. is struggling to turn a profit and looking for a new chief executive.

CEO Tim Koogle, who has been with the company almost since it started, will step aside when a replacement is found. He will stay on as chair.

Koogle, 49, said he felt Yahoo needed an infusion of new talent.

"I'm looking over the horizon, and saying, when the economy starts to firm and Yahoo has weathered through this, what do we need to have in place so that we've got enough bench strength to scale continuously as we grow for the next five to 10 years?" Koogle said in a conference call with financial analysts. "I think it's a great time to be proactive about that, and bring in and extend our team."

The company announced Wednesday that its first-quarter operating earnings will come in at "approximately break-even," well short of Wall Street's expectations. Full-year results also could miss targets.

Yahoo shares dropped $1.38 to $21 before trading was halted on the Nasdaq Stock Market on Wednesday morning because the company had canceled an appearance at an Internet conference in New York. When trading resumed after hours, shares fell another $2.31, or 11 percent, to $18.69.

"The best dotcom can't make it, and that's troubling for the entire Internet economy," said Jordan Rohan, media analyst for Wit Soundview. "If Yahoo is only marginally profitable, then players like Terra Lycos don't stand a chance. And smaller players aren't even in the game."

Koogle—known as "TK" around the company—joined Yahoo in 1995 after serving as president of Seattle-based Intermec Corp. and spending nine years as an executive at Motorola Inc. He became Yahoo chair in 1999.

"This guy has a lot of background here, been there from very early on, and has done a real good job," said John Corcoran, an analyst with the CIBC World Markets Corp. Finding a replacement will be difficult, like "getting someone to step in front of an avalanche." Corcoran said, considering the downward momentum of the company's stock and the Internet economy.

After starting as a search engine in the mid-1990s, Santa Clara-based Yahoo grew into a full-service information and shopping portal and at one point was the world's most popular destination on the Internet. Yahoo also was one of the Internet's biggest financial success stories, with revenue nearly doubling last year, to $1.1 billion, and profits of $291 million.

But the company's dependence on advertising, which accounted for nearly 90 percent of last year's revenue, has proven problematic in the dotcom meltdown. Also, the overall slowing of the economy has forced companies to slash their spending on marketing. Yahoo has been suffering turnover in a number of its top divisions—in recent weeks, the company's heads of operation for Asia and Europe have resigned.

For months, rumors have circulated that Yahoo would merge with another company, most likely an entertainment titan such as Walt Disney Co. or Viacom Inc. that could help it compete with the AOL-Time Warner Inc. behemoth. Koogle, however, has been saying a deal like that actually could reduce the site's highly valued breadth of content.

Yahoo had more than 55 million unique visitors in January, behind America Online Inc.'s and Microsoft Corp.'s sites, according to Jupiter Media Metrix. It was the first time since July 2000 that Yahoo trailed Microsoft.

By comparison, AOL had more than 64 million unique visitors and Microsoft had 56.2 million. The number is a count of total distinct users who visited a website or online property at least once in a given month.

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BUSINESS*Monday*
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

PCCI UP FOR MAJOR UPHEAVAL

Businessmen in turmoil over politics

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry is on the cusp of a major upheaval as members, especially in the provinces, grow increasingly disgruntled over the growing politicization of the country's largest business organization.

Former PCCI director Benigno N. Ricafort said: "It is unfortunate that PCCI may have been allowed by its leaders to be politicized during the entire duration of the Estrada administration disregarding the sentiment of the majority of the members."

Ricafort is a member of the Apec Business Advisory Council who resigned from the organization, along with chair Roberto R. Romulo and co-member Jose Luis Yulo Jr., last Nov. 4 because "they have found it increasingly difficult to remain credible in espousing ideals in this regional forum when the government is the first to violate them."

Ricafort cited PCCI's controversial board meeting on Nov. 6 where the PCCI leadership appeared apologetic on the outcome of the voting on a major policy issue.

Ten of PCCI's 15-man board and 13 representatives of its 17 regional chambers voted to seek for President Estrada's resignation in the face of the "jueteng" and bribery scandal. This prompted officers of PCCI's regional network to sign an open letter admonishing the leaders for asking pardon for the group's decision.

He said he used to regard his affiliation with PCCI with pride since it was the only non-government business organization with a nationwide network.

Now, Ricafort said he and most of the PCCI members were wary of being associated with the current PCCI leadership who helped prop up a wrong regime and has lost their moral authority to speak of reforms.

Ricafort wants the public to know that many individual members of PCCI's regional chambers do not agree with the values exemplified by the group's current leadership.

The PCCI leadership—as well as the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc., Employers Confederation of the Philippines Inc. and Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.—recently came under fire from the Makati Business Club.

The MBC criticized the PCCI leadership for hosting a luncheon for the new President barely a month after showing its full support to the Estrada administration up to its final hours.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz earlier criticized the PCCI leadership for demanding economic reforms from President Macapagal-Arroyo when its leadership does not even heed the clamor of the majority for the group's own reforms.

ROMULO at the helm.

RICAFORT: Unfortunate

LUZ criticizes PCCI.

In reply, PCCI acting secretary general Edelmiro Amante Jr. said Luz "may only be expressing his own personal opinion and not necessarily the views of MBC's officers and members."

Amante noted that Luz has been very forthright about his political views, some of which have not been cleared with the MBC leadership. He cited Luz's comments on the President's Cabinet choices where he claimed the MBC was forced to issue a disclaimer. Luz denied there was neither a disclaimer nor was he reprimanded by the MBC for his comments.

Amante said the group was a "a little more deliberate and circumspect in its public pronouncements because of its wide membership base—it is composed of 116 industry associations and 116 local chambers with a total membership of 25,000 enterprises.

Amante clarified that the PCCI was not demanding reforms from the group but was instead consulted by Ms Macapagal on how to solve the country's economic problems.

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Banker believes in loose set-ups to get things done

By Clarissa S. Batino

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

FOR Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. president and COO Valentin Araneta, managing one's temper is part of management.

To him, a calm approach even to the most complex issues is often more effective.

His unflappable disposition should work well for a guy tasked to stoke the fires of a bank that BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had dubbed to be one of the sector's sleeping giants.

Araneta takes exception to the compliment tossed by the governor even as he admits that indeed, RCBC is embarking on ventures where it would harness inherent potentials.

Controlled by one of the taipans, Alfredo Yuchengco, the country's 9th largest lender, with assets of over P100 billion, is girding for tougher competition by venturing into "post-slumber" exercises like Internet banking and acquisitions.

Yuchengco owns 54 percent of RCBC while Sanwa Bank of Japan accounts for 25 percent. The bank has 180 branches run by 3,000 employees all over the country.

Araneta was promoted as president and COO of RCBC in mid-2000 from his former post as executive vice president and treasurer of the bank.

Araneta is a seasoned banker who has worked in various financial institutions over the past three decades.

"I believe it is easier to delegate if you have been through a lot of sectors. You would readily have a sense if something is wrong," he says.

The executive considers himself fortunate to have been acquainted with various operations of a financial institution like treasury, economic research, trading, correspondent banking, investment banking, and capital markets.

Araneta started his career in the financial sector as an economist of the Private Development Corp. of the Philippines in the early '70s. He then moved to Bancom Development Corp. as senior specialist in foreign exchange and later on joined the Banque Nationale de Paris as chief foreign exchange dealer.

He then joined the Philippine National Bank where he stayed for more than a decade. He started as assistant vice president for the overseas offices in 1981 and rose to become senior executive vice president and COO in 1998.

Araneta says an executive has to delegate more as he goes up the corporate ladder.

Araneta describes the management setup in RCBC as horizontal and he wants it to be almost as flat as possible. Such a setup entails a weekly senior management meeting, endless e-mails, and occasional surprise visits to different departments.

"We want to make the setup as loose as possible because the important thing is getting things done," says Araneta.

Though democracy and empowerment are edicts he observes in the workplace, this executive is not completely averse to calling the crucial shots. He says this comes with the territory.

Araneta's door, even in the new building, is always open. He credits Alfonso "Tito" Yuchengco III, the bank's chair, as the main proponent of accessibility to the higher up which he is much supportive of.

"We try to break down the hierarchy in that respect. When I have a free time, I go to different departments for a 'pleasant surprise visit'," he says.

The executive boasts that the new building, several floors of which will be occupied by the bank, will offer Intranet access to strategic locations to enable the employees to interact with management.

For relaxation, Araneta indulges in a game of golf and goes out with co-workers for a drink or two. "We need the frankness without the office setup," he says.

A guy who values his privacy, he shuns ambush interviews and prefers scheduled one-on-ones. Even on a promise of no-attribution, Araneta could not be coaxed into revealing juicy bits and pieces on his bank or its competitors.

When asked about RCBC's bid to buy majority control of Equitable PCI Bank, Araneta simply smiled.

"It is really a challenge to be with the group during the more exciting phase of the institution," he says.

ARANETA

Revisiting housing finance

MAPping
THE FUTURE

Romeo L. Bernardo

THE PROVISION of decent shelter to the poor has been a major concern of every administration in the past. Because of the magnitude of the problem, government over the years has intervened in almost all aspects of shelter provision—from actual production of housing units to issuing guarantees on mortgages to extending direct loans, all intended to subsidize the home purchases of the poor.

In spite of the different programs and approaches to the housing problem, the government to date, has yet to successfully address the housing problem. In 2000, the government estimated the housing backlog at some four million units.

With housing as a priority program, the Estrada administration actually started on the right foot when it unveiled the Medium-term Philippine Development Plan for Shelter 1999-2004 (MTPDP-S) early in its administration. The MTPDP-S benefited from studies done revealing the flaws in previous government housing programs and sought to put in place a more sustainable housing finance program. Among others, the MTPDP-S sought to:

- Make government subsidies for socialized housing transparent through a housing assistance fund, an "on-budget" subsidy fund targeted at the bottom 30 percent of society. By making the cost of housing for the poor a line item in the government's annual budget, the MTPDP-S moved away from the interest subsidy approach of the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP), where the amount of the subsidies were "hidden" from public scrutiny.
- Restructure government housing agencies and improve their operational efficiency. Overall, this was meant to improve the government's effectiveness in the delivery of housing services and stop the drain on public resources resulting from poor program implementation. As an example, in 1997, the World Bank estimated the cost of recapitalizing the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) and providing against its potential loan losses at P23 billion, an amount equivalent to one percent of GNP.
- Correct the false premise of earlier programs equating shelter provision to homeownership. Instead, the MTPDP-S aimed to give due attention to the rental housing market, a long ignored segment of the housing sector that has degenerated under the rent control law.
- Develop a secondary market for mortgage-backed securities to increase the flow of private funds into the housing sector. This was expected to ease pressure on public pension and provident institutions to directly shell out funds fo. unsustainable socialized housing programs and instead, allow these institutions to increase their viability and indirectly help the housing sector through the development of the local capital market.

The reforms being introduced under the MTPDP-S were in the right direction. The UHLP was suspended. Background studies to better target subsidies under the proposed housing assistance fund were initiated. Dialogues with private players in the housing market were held to garner their support for the program. By October 1999, discussions on securitization issues were well under way with legislation for the establishment of a secondary mortgage institution already drafted.

Unfortunately, the MTPDP-S never saw implementation.

What Winnie Monsod then called the "rape" of the housing sector brought in new personalities and a revised housing program. The revised program, dubbed "Pabahay sa Bagong Siglo," purportedly would rely "purely" on private funds. In reality, it was throwing the full weight of the Home Insurance and Guarantee Corp. (HIGC) behind the program and made private sector loans for socialized housing risk-free. Thus, government remained the sole risk bearer and the ultimate funder of the program.

Despite this setback, financial executives from the private sector (led by the Finex) continued to work on a different track with the objective of mobilizing private funds for housing through the establishment of a secondary mortgage institution (SMI). The brave effort notwithstanding, work in this area remains constrained by the lack of the appropriate legal, regulatory, supervisory and tax frameworks to guide market players. Also needed to inspire confidence in primary mortgages are supporting infrastructures, such as credit rating and centralized titling systems.

Other options to harness private sector funds for housing remain unexplored. These include such market-based products as contract savings for housing where banks offer potential homebuyers a long-term contract under which the homebuyer is supposed to make periodic deposits and the bank in turn, guarantees the availability of loans for home purchase at some future time and pre-specified terms.

Moreover, people have yet to fully appreciate the role of contractual savings institutions (such as pension funds and insurance companies) in financing the housing sector. Banks, due to the short-term nature of deposits, are in fact not suited to provide capital for housing. On the other hand, contractual savings institutions (CSI) have long-term liabilities to match the long-term funding needs of housing.

In the past, the government rightly recognized that CSIs have a role to play in housing. However, it reduced the public CSIs (SSS, GSIS and Pag-Ibig) to making periodic contributions to support the poorly designed and unsustainable UHLP. This threatened the institutions' viability and made it difficult to enlist their support to develop the local capital markets.

In fact, CSIs (whether public or private) would be more suited as investors in the secondary market for mortgage-backed securities. In this role, they are able to channel vast long-term resources into the housing market without sacrificing their viability. They themselves would benefit from a better matching of assets and liabilities, a wider selection of investment grade securities and better returns on investments.

Indeed, the housing problem is a finance problem, not a production problem. The long-term solutions require partnership between government and private sector in creating the necessary financial infrastructures built on market discipline where the rules are clear to all players and where the respective roles of the government and private participants are clearly defined. Only with this partnership can we be on our way to solving the housing problem.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, managing director of Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates Inc., former undersecretary of the Department of Finance, and former alternate director of the Asian Development Bank. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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SALES representatives, key account officers and managers are invited to attend the "Strategic Account Development and Management" seminar of Mansmith and Fielders on March 16-17 at the Manila Galleria Suites.

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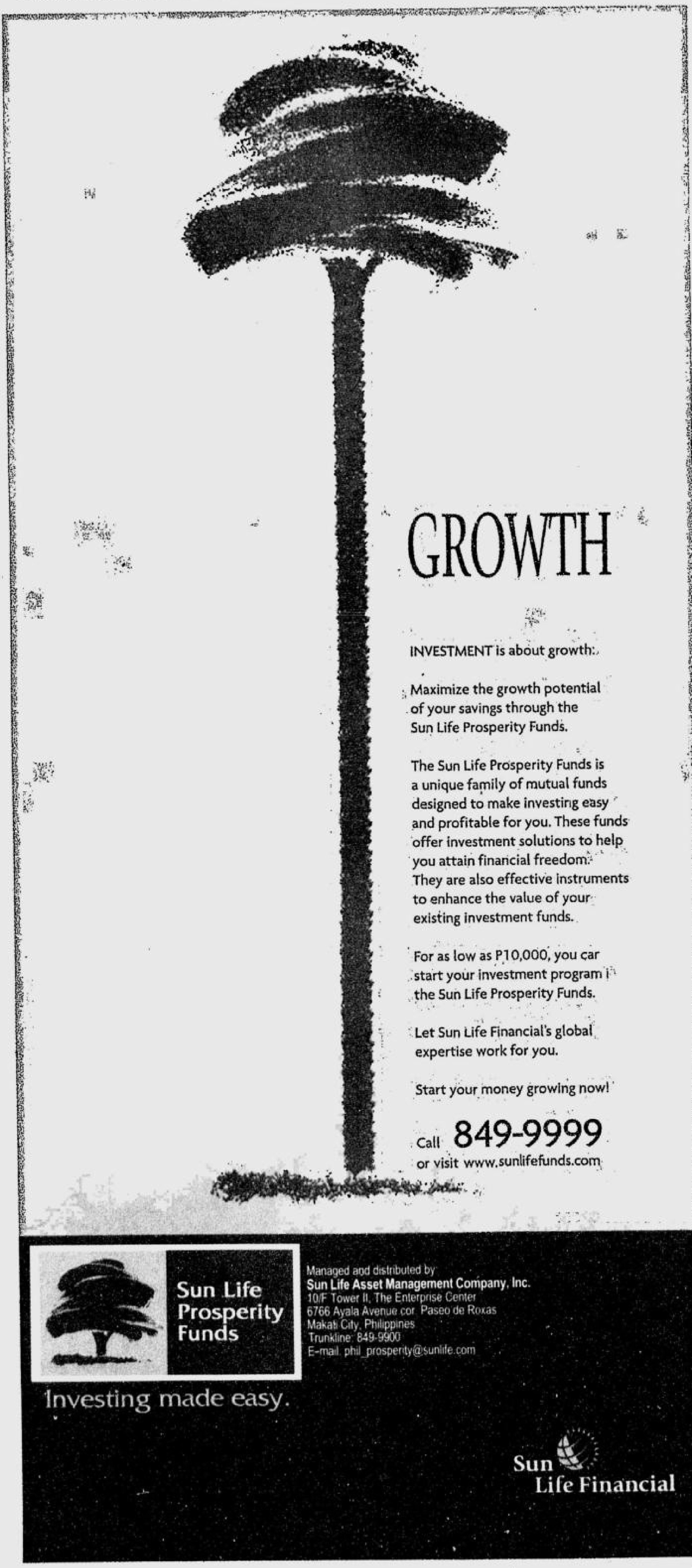
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Germany's inability to fill high-tech jobs mirrors Europe-wide problem

DRESDEN, Germany—When Axel Steiner's e-commerce startup placed a classified ad in The Times of India newspaper, he was flooded with thousands of resumés from applicants half a world away.

"You don't even want to know how crazy it was," said Steiner, hiring director for Newtron, a 100-employee company cashing in on a government program that lets German high-tech firms poach the best and brightest from overseas.

Steiner didn't end up hiring any Indians, but he did get temporary workers from the 15-nation European Union, according to the European Information Technology Observatory, a research group backed by government and industry.

Lump in e-commerce jobs, technical and non-technical, and Germany leads the pack with a shortage of 400,000, followed by Britain with 300,000, France with 250,000 and Italy with 180,000, says International Data Corp.

Entrepreneurs have complained that rigid government regulations can discourage startups. And officials acknowledge basic educational shortcomings for their own citizens.

"Immigration cannot solve our skills gap problem," the EU's employment commissioner, Anna Diamantopoulou, told a Brussels conference. She cited a survey that found only 22 percent of European workers has had any job-related computer training.

To fill the gap, Germany, Ireland and Britain have loosened immigration laws, but many of their neighbors have not.

The United States attracts the lion's share of global talent, issuing 200,000 visas annually to foreign high-tech workers. Many are German, and that's bad news for a country that only produces about 6,000 tech graduates a year.

The German green card system, much more restrictive than the US work permit, had drawn nearly 5,300 foreigners as of early January. Among that number were about 1,000 Indians, 500 Romanians and more than 700 people from former Soviet republics.

Though promoted by German leaders as necessary to global competitiveness, the green card program has tested the limits of tolerance in a country unaccustomed to propping up its esteemed technological base with imported help.

It struck an anti-foreigner nerve immediately, spurring one conservative politician to sound the battle cry "Kinder statt Inder," a slogan demanding better education for children instead of hiring Indians.

The program offers foreign workers a five-year work permit if they have a qualified university degree or make at least 100,000 marks ($48,000) a year at their German jobs. It opens the door for family members as well.

Many find it hard to adjust to life in Germany.

Alex Proodnikov, a 26-year-old Russian Web designer with Newtron, socializes mostly with the other Russians because neither he nor his wife speak German. He leaned on Newtron for help with such basics as finding an apartment, buying furniture and hooking up electricity.

"It's hard to tell which parts of Germany I like and which I don't like," said a circumspect Proodnikov, who makes five times more money in Dresden than he did in Russia.

The program has been a boon for small German firms, particularly in the formerly communist east where it has proven difficult to attract Germans from the west because living standards remain lower.

Huge internationals such as electronics giant Siemens or software maker SAP AG hire their share of green card workers. But they also have plenty of operations overseas, where SAP has nearly three-quarters of its 23,792 employees.

Small- and medium-sized firms account for nearly two-thirds of Europe's technology jobs.

More than half the green card permits given in eastern Germany were for Saxony state, where cities like Dresden and Leipzig host thriving bands of startups that lend the region the new nickname "Saxony Valley."

"Just looking at my own company, the green card program was the greatest thing invented in the last year," said Jens Homann, chief executive of Kontext E, a Dresden-based maker of e-commerce software. "If you're a small firm like us, you're not able to

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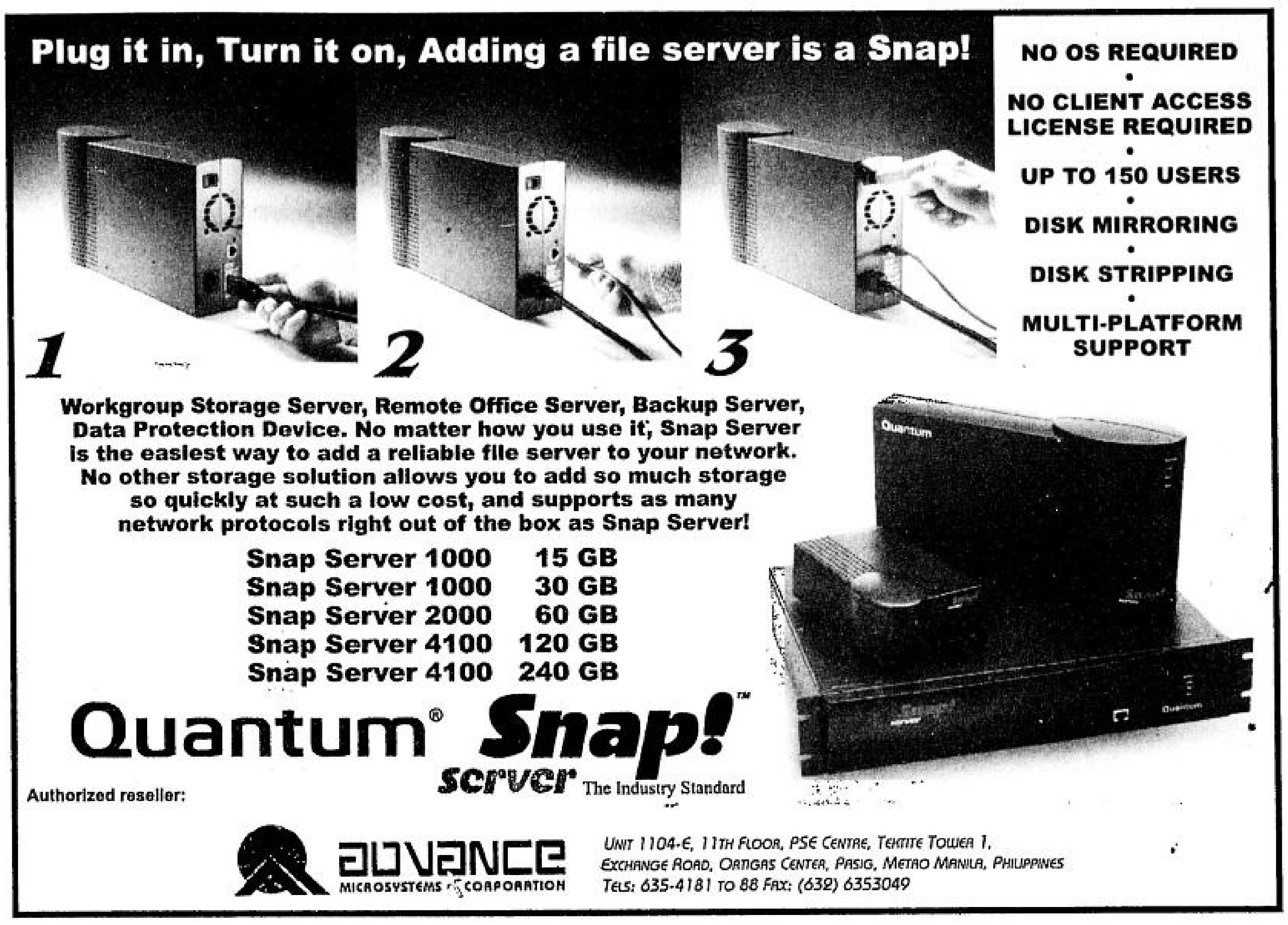

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e-Learning: Mixing the right stuff to optimize Web-based training

By Anthony O. Alcantara

WITH nearly everything slowly being preceded with an "e" nowadays, e-learning is one neologism that is rapidly making an impact in human resource training.

In the United States, which is considered the bastion of the Internet, about 97 percent of companies have implemented or are considering e-learning in their personnel training, 62 percent at least have one training module online, 51 percent have a learning website, etc.

While 75 percent to 80 percent of corporate training is still held in the classroom, there are predictions that it would decline to 60 percent by 2003. Being part of an increasingly interconnected world, the Philippines is following a similar trend.

Victor L. Magdaraog, vice president for SGV-Development Dimensions International, says there is nothing new with this prediction. In fact he even doubts this prognostication simply because the effects of technology could sometimes be unpredictable or unexpected.

"They have been saying the same things in 1997," he says. "But no doubt, there is a growth in the use of technology in training people."

SGV-DDI is a joint venture of the SGV Group and Development Dimensions International, one of the world's leading HR companies.

According to a study conducted by James H.S. Davis, vice president of the Workforce Development Group of DDI, "the decision to deliver training via the classroom had as much to do with cost, instructor and capital resources, and technological barriers as it did habit."

Davis adds that classroom training was and still is considered the most effective teaching method.

However, the '90s showed a trend of corporate downsizing and re-engineering, where employees became geographically dispersed, departments were displaced, and training budgets became the first victims of belt-tightening.

"As a result, what we observed throughout the last decade of the last century was a growing acceptance of technology overall, and the recognition that Web-based learning might effectively complement the more traditional training and development approaches used by companies for the last 50 years," says Davis.

Speed and cost concerns, geographical irrelevance, globalization, major investments in infrastructure and a leading-edge mentality have fueled this trend toward e-learning.

Davis defines leading-edge mentality as a "must be first, must win" mentality that is endemic in technology companies or technologically sophisticated companies.

For Madaraog, comparing e-learning and traditional classroom learning is a useful exercise when trying to illustrate the advantages of e-learning.

He says studies show that e-learning has 50- to 60-percent better consistency rate, 25- to 60-percent better retention rate and no significant difference in skill proficiency.

There is better consistency because there are no instructors and the presentation of the learning materials is always the same. There is better retention because people learn at their own

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Asia poised to lead wireless Web phone race

SINGAPORE—Telecommunications companies are taking heat for paying tens of billions of dollars for rights to high-speed wireless Internet services in Europe, which some consider a colossal gamble on an unproven future market.

But in Asia—where speedy Web phones are about to make their world debut—there is little talk of impending disaster.

Because of cheaper licenses and more technically advanced and uniform digital phone networks across the region, many believe Asia's business risks will be fewer and that Asians will get a cheaper and better product than most Europeans and North Americans.

The arrival of so-called third-generation, or 3G, mobile phone technology has created both rational and irrational exuberance across the globe, with telecoms spending billions on the technology they say will put wireless Internet in the palm of our hands at speeds 100 times faster than what's currently available.

"Wireless technology is probably better positioned to be rolled out in Asia," says Steven Yap, director of communications at iamasia.com, a Hong Kong-based Internet research company. "There's greater standardization in Asia than the US or in Europe."

Third-generation mobile phones will in fact be handheld computers—capable of making phone calls, sending e-mail, broadcasting movies, playing video games, even taking digital photographs.

So a tourist on the Great Wall of China can snap a digital photo of herself, send it via e-mail to her mom in Pittsburgh and then call to confirm reception—all with the same gadget. She can also use it to ask directions to the Starbucks cafe in Beijing's Forbidden City.

There are concerns, though, that only the rich will be able to afford such devices. And some analysts worry that 3G's chances of becoming dominant may be hurt by a current technology, that of Japan's wildly popular "i-mode" phones, or by a steppingstone technology.

Most telecommunications companies are now upgrading networks to the steppingstone system, known as Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS). It is designed to transmit data four to six times faster than the current standard, or about as fast as a 56K modem on a personal computer.

Unlike today's wireless phones, handsets using this technology will be able to play news and movies through streaming video. And that has some analysts predicting it may become such a hit that consumers won't want to bother spending money to upgrade to 3G.

In theory, 3G will be so fast it will seem instant. But in reality, 3G networks in big, busy cities like Tokyo and Bangkok could eventually become clogged just with phone calls, said Geoff Johnson, research director of Gartner Group Pacific.

Meanwhile, Japan's i-mode technology could build up a worldwide constituency that could hurt 3G's chances. More than 17 million Japanese already use i-mode phones to exchange text messages, send animated figures and surf websites, and NTT DoCoMo is working to take i-mode global this year.

But i-mode has limited bandwidth and can't do streaming video. So DoCoMo is banking on 3G, too. The company will be the first in the world to launch 3G services—this May in the Tokyo area.

More than $100 billion was spent in Europe last year for the rights to airwaves necessary to implement 3G services. Analysts say it will cost another $80 billion to upgrade Europe's existing digital phone networks.

Most expect it to be cheaper to upgrade in Asia, but costs are difficult to estimate.

In Asia, auction prices will be significantly lower and many countries, including Japan, are opting instead for "beauty contests" that allocate licenses to what regulators deem the most qualified companies.

In South Korea, where half the population has a mobile phone, two licenses were sold in December for $1 billion each and the government has plans to allocate another for a similar sum.

Singapore is due to auction four licenses in April or May at the starting price of S$150 million ($86 million). Taiwan plans an October auction and Hong Kong is still debating its timing. Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea plan to launch commercial services early in 2002.

Steppingstone GPRS services will be launched gradually throughout the region this year in what Lucas Chow, CEO of Singapore's leading mobile phone operator, SingTel Mobile, says is "to give people a taste" of what's to come.

Asia has the advantage of having the world's newest digital phone networks, which will be cheaper and easier to upgrade than those in Europe and North America.

In the United States, 3G services will likely be two years behind Asia because of its "severely fragmented wireless market," said Gartner's Johnson.

Some US carriers are currently upgrading their networks to offer higher speed wireless services, but others need additional capacity before they can start delivering fast wireless Internet and video. Many will have to wait for another set of US licenses to go on the auction block this fall.

Chow, of SingTel, believes 3G's most compelling application will be "voice portals" that let people command wireless gadgets to surf the Internet. *AP*

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Investors court China as it debuts on world stage

CHINA'S phenomenal economic growth, and its imminent entry into the club of free trading nations of the world, has spurred intense interest among international investors.

As intermediaries of the capital inflows into the country, banks and broking houses stand to reap a windfall from fees, commissions, and old-fashioned interest income on loans.

But whether China's own banks benefit from intermediating this capital tide will depend on the speed and efficiency with which the industry can deal with the staggering burden of bad debts. These debts were accumulated during years of state-directed lending; develop the expertise required to asses credit risk, and introduce acceptable levels of disclosure, say analysts.

The restructuring and proposed listing of the Bank of China Group in Hong Kong—which will bring the bank under the regulatory eye of the internationally regarded Hong Kong Monetary Authority—has as much to do with accelerating this process as it has with raising internal efficiencies.

Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, expressed some optimism on this front in his annual state of the banking industry address on the eve of Chinese New Year.

China's big four state banks; he told the press, had trimmed their bad loan portfolios by 10 percentage points during 2000, to a point where China's official figures showed overdue loans were now down to 25 percent of total lending, with another 3 percent defined as "non-recoverable."

The problem with the data, however, lies in the definitions which are applied by the PBOC, say analysts, who claim non-performing loans measured by internationally accepted standards are more like 50 percent of total lending for the industry.

Dai said the four state banks—The Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank, and Construction Bank, had collectively transferred 1.4 trillion yuan ($169.12 billion) worth of bad loans last year to the four Asset Management Companies (AMCs) set up to take over the bad loans.

This transfer had cut the bad loan ratio by 10 percent and helped the banks to a collective net profit of more than 14 billion yuan ($1.69 billion), he added.

On the key issues of supervision, internal control, and capital adequacy, Dai said major improvements were introduced during the year. "We have made big progress in improving the supervision of the four banks. We have also improved their system of internal control. In the last three years they closed 21,000 offices—1,700 at country level—and reduced their workforce by 110,000," he said.

Chi Lo, regional head of research (North East Asia), for Standard Chartered Bank—which has a major presence on the mainland China—is skeptical about the degree of progress achieved on the bad debt front. "China's asset management companies are plagued by serious incentive incompatibility problems and an inadequate legal framework," noted Lo.

In a paper prepared for the Asian Development Bank Annual Conference in Manila in November, Lo said these problems meant that the AMCs were more akin to "bad-debt warehouses" which was retarding the pace of banking reform.

"The ugly truth is that banking reform will take much longer than the official rhetoric has it. This protracted process will delay full currency convertibility and complete liberalization of the Chinese banking market to foreign banks," he added.

Bank of China economist Qu Hongbin echoed these sentiments, but took a more sanguine view of the outcome of the reform program. "After two decades of reform, the problems remain formidable," said Qu in the BOC International bulletin China Analyser.

"The two most urgent tasks on hand are to clean up bank non-performing loans (NPLs), and to set up a new social safety net. Muddling through is no longer an option. The massive volumes of NPLs are seriously distorting bank lending behavior and have become the major obstacle to further reform in the banking sector."

But the cost of dealing with the problem will be huge. "We estimate that writing off state bank's NPLs could cost the government 1.9 trillion yuan, " said Qu.

Plainly the present pace of reform and the resources being applied to clearing up the bad loan problems will have to be accelerated.

Qu, however, believes the government is aware of the urgency, and despite the scale of the challenge, is confident that the government will dispose of state assets to fund the acquisition of bad loans.

"The resultant income (from asset disposals) should enable the government to address both the bank NPL problem and the financial shortfall in the nation's social security system—the two most intractable problems of its entire economic reform program," he said.

"Any progress made in these areas will also significantly benefit the overall banking and state-owned enterprise restructuring efforts."

The result, Qu said, would be that China was likely to open various industries to foreign investment—including financial services—sooner than initially planned.

"Foreign strategic investors will bring not only capital, but also industrial expertise and management skills. Moreover, with the capital markets becoming the major funding source for reforms, government policies will be more market friendly." *The Asian Banker*

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WB sees economic benefit in equality of the sexes

WASHINGTON—Countries where women and men have equal rights enjoy higher economic growth, lower poverty rates and less corruption than nations where women are still treated as second-class citizens, the World Bank said last Wednesday.

"Societies that discriminate on the basis of gender pay a significant price—in greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance and a lower quality of life," co-author Andrew Mason said in a statement accompanying a report issued to coincide with International Women's Day.

"Societies progress more rapidly if they adopt specific measures to narrow gender gaps," Mason said.

Countries that provide women with equal access to education, work and other benefits do better economically and have lower rates of child malnutrition and mortality, said the report, which also drew attention to a number of education, health and credit lending programs the World Bank uses to promote gender equality.

For instance, the report argued that African nations could boost the continent's agricultural productivity by 20 percent by granting African rural women access to education and land.

"Increasing gender equality is central to the idea of development as freedom, of expanding the choices and control that people have over their lives," the World Bank's chief economist Nicholas Stern said in a statement.

"Education, health, productivity, credit and governance work better when women are involved."

The report showed that over the past few decades, major improvements in women's rights have been achieved across the globe.

Over the last 25 years, girls' primary school enrollment rates doubled in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa and women's life expectancy has increased by as much as 20 years over the past half-century, according to the report.

"There has been important progress on gender issues in recent years, both in the work of the World Bank and among the countries that look to us for assistance," World Bank director for gender and development Karen Mason, said.

"But we are keenly aware of how much remains to be done."

Improvements are needed especially in access to education and resources, the bank said.

According to the report, women in South Asia have only half as many years of education as men and female secondary school enrollment rates are only two-thirds of male rates.

In Latin America, the bank said, women in rural areas are virtually landless as they are in Africa, where they ironically are the major producers of food crops.

And while the World Bank reported that corruption tended to run low in countries where women are involved in public life, it found that women are still widely underrepresented in the political arena.

Women hold less than 10 percent of seats in parliaments across the world, and female representation in Eastern Europe has actually dropped from 25 percent to 7 percent since the late 1980s. *Reuters*

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MOVEMENTS

Northwest has new COO

MINNEAPOLIS—Northeast Airlines announced that its board of directors has elected Richard H. Anderson, 46, Northwest's current executive vice president and chief operating officer, to the position of chief executive officer.

Douglas M. Steenland, 49, currently executive vice president and chief corporate officer, was promoted to president.

John H. Dashburg, 58, who has been president and chief executive officer since 1990, has informed the board that he will become chairman, chief executive officer and president of Burger King Corp., a Miami-based subsidiary of Duageo Plc., on April 1, 2001.

Anderson, who joined Northwest in 1990 as vice president and deputy general counsel, is currently responsible for all operating activities, including flight operations, technical operations, ground operations and in-flight services, in addition to facilities and airport affairs. He has been chief operating officer since 1998.

Steenland joined Northwest in 1991 as vice president and deputy general counsel and became senior vice president and general counsel in 1995. In 1999, he was named executive vice president and chief corporate officer with responsibility for a wide range of functions including domestic and international airline alliances, government affairs, labor relations and corporate communications. He is also general counsel.

With annual revenues in excess of $11 billion and approximately 55,000 employees worldwide, Northwest Airlines is the world's fourth largest airline with hubs at Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Memphis, Tokyo and Amsterdam and more than 2,600 daily departures.

With its travel partners, Northwest serves more than 785 cities in 120 countries on six continents. Based on statistics compiled by the US Department of Transportation, Northwest was the most on-time US airline among the seven largest network carriers for the period 1990-2000.

Stanchart has new GM

ROBLES

STANDARD Chartered Bank recently announced the appointment of Anthony Robles as general manager of consumer banking's new wealth management value center, which is responsible for liabilities, trust and investment services, foreign exchange and treasury linked products delivered through all channels including mass market branches, priority banking and direct marketing.

Robles joined Standard Chartered early last year as senior vice president and head of personal sales and service, where he spearheaded in doubling the deposit level of the bank. Prior to this, he was senior vice president II of the retail banking center in Union Bank of the Philippines.

He also held various positions in Insular Bank of Asia and America/ Philippine Commercial International Bank, Equitable Banking Corp. and Filinvest Credit Corp.

Standard Chartered is the oldest established foreign bank in the Philippines with over 614 offices in 57 countries with 32,000 employees.

Tower Club gets key officers

TAN-JARABATA

HANSEN

THE TOWER Club, a private business club, has appointed Soeren Hansen as general manager and Cyndy Tan-Jarabata as the membership director.

Hansen, who was educated in Denmark and New York's Cornell University, assumed the post last January. He has 15 years of experience in managing luxury hotels, resorts and clubs in the Asia-Pacific region, most recently, the Mercantile Club Jakarta.

Tan-Jarabata, on the other hand, has a 10-year track record in sales and marketing in the hospitality business.

She will be responsible for identifying market opportunities, strategic planning and execution.

Germany's . . .

(From page C3)

set up a subsidiary in India."

Tapping contacts at the Dresden University of Technology, which attracts students from around the world, Homann was able to headhunt foreign experts in his own backyard. Since August, he's recruited one Bulgarian and three Vietnamese for his 18-person staff.

But Homann admits the program is unlikely to help other firms that can't draw from a nearby university and are unwilling to hire sight-unseen from overseas or pay to fly people in for interviews.

Markus Berner, a SAP spokesman, said his company is unable to fill many sales and service positions because applicants from overseas simply lack the language skills. English may still dominate the Internet, but in Germany business is conducted in German.

For that reason, Germany is often not a preferred destination for foreign high-tech workers.

Chinbat Hasbagana, a Mongolian native, came to Dresden to study computer science in 1991 because her government would allow foreign study only in former socialist countries.

"After studying here, I didn't have a choice," Hasbagana said. "There were no real opportunities in Mongolia. But if you ask whether I would have gone to America if I could have, I probably would have." *AP*

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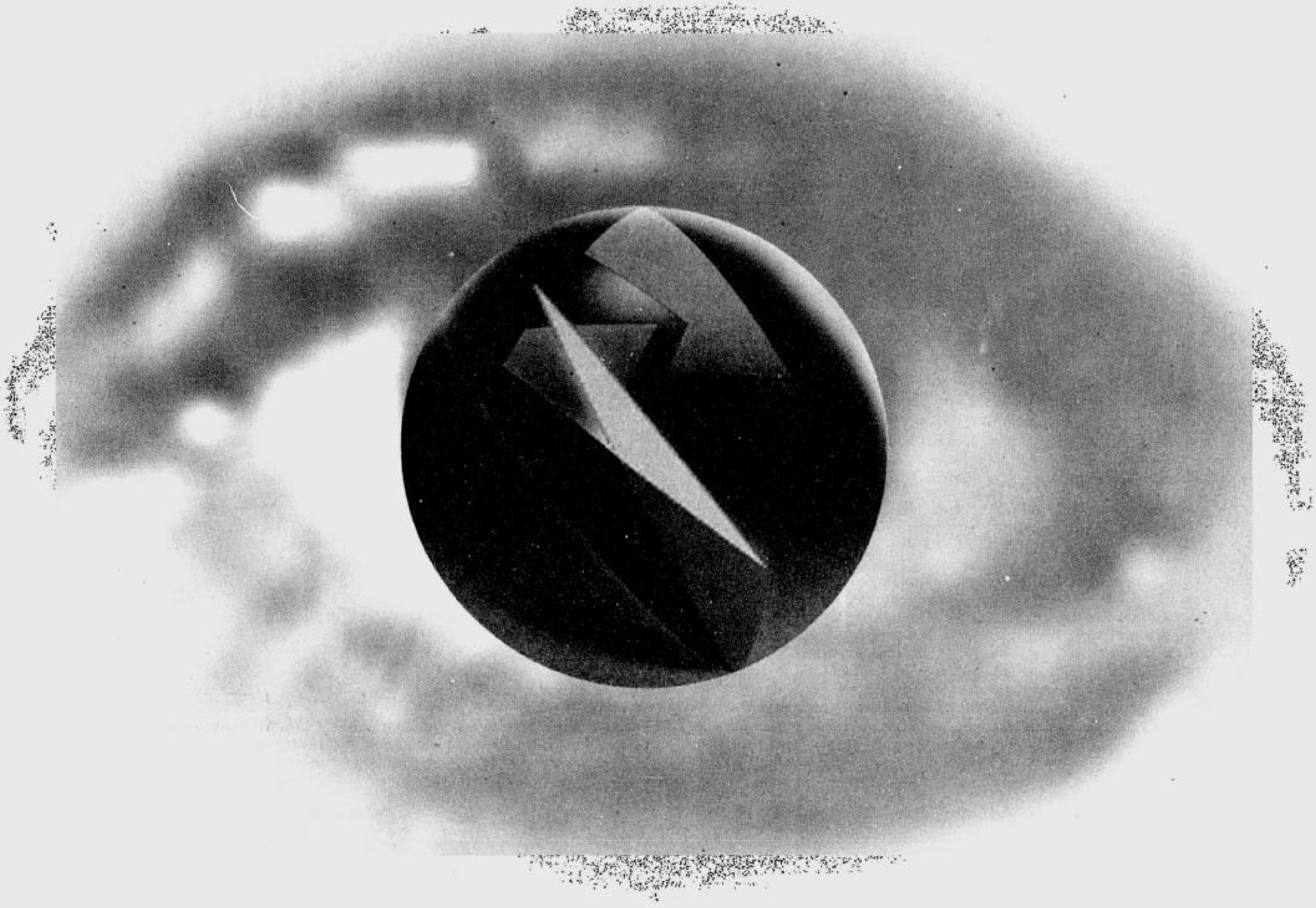

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BUSINESS*Monday*

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto receives plaque of appreciation from AIM president Roberto F. de Ocampo and SGV & Co. founder Washington SyCip during the 4th Asian CEO's Policy Roundtable.

BRIAN W. Scott receives the plaque of appreciation from AIM president Roberto F. de Ocampo and Washington SyCip.

CORAZON de la Paz, who talked about responsible investing in Asia, gets tokens of appreciation from the AIM.

When morals are an entry in the balance sheet

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BRIAN W. Scott of the Asian Institute of Management quotes a stockbroker as saying you cannot be an investor in the stock market if you persist in asking moral questions.

Scott says in a presentation during the 4th Annual CEO's Policy Roundtable of the W. SyCip Policy Center that the sentiment expressed by the stockbroker may be true in the past decades, but not anymore.

He emphasizes that there was a growing trend in the United States and Europe for business to be more socially responsible—a sudden attack of conscience, so to speak.

This can be exemplified by the backlash against giant sports company Nike Inc. for the alleged use of child and slave labor in the manufacturing of its apparel and sports products.

In contrast, personal care company The Body Shop made such a big hit with customers for its stand against the use of animal testing in cosmetics and the use of environmentally friendly packaging materials.

Scott says the move toward a more responsible approach to investing emerged in the late '80s with the growth of the mutual fund and portfolio management industry. The wide array of fund managers gave investors a real choice regarding the character of their investment profile.

"There was a time when customers were not really given the chance to say I want to put my investments in a certain company and not with the other. With more investment companies coming up, you can now tell your fund manager to put your money in companies you would like to support or are doing good things," he says.

Some of the investment portfolios in the US, for instance, exclude companies associated with tobacco, firearms, military weapons, alcohol, gambling establishments, companies that are focused on toxic emissions, oil or chemical spills and companies that are the subject of union boycotts.

On the other hand, there are portfolios that are focused on the environment and highlight issues such as gender, minority groups, international employment operating standards or reflect particular religious group beliefs.

GIVING their presentations were Brian W. Scott, chair of Management Frontiers Pty. Ltd. from Australia, Mohan Phadke, vice president of Ballarpur Industries Ltd., Corazon de la Paz, senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan and Ramon del Rosario Jr., chair and CEO of AB Capital and Investment Corp.

BRIAN W. Scott with Philamlife group head Jose L. Cuisia. PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

FORMER Finance secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. was one of many CEOs who attended the roundtable discussion.

SEN. Sergio Osmeña and former President Fidel V. Ramos attended the policy roundtable held at the SGV Hall of the AIM Conference Center in Makati.

FORMER Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez makes a rare appearance at the AIM.

"Underlying all of these is the desire of many people to have their investment portfolios conform with deeply held and shared beliefs and values. There is a growing realization that business is a great force in effecting social change just by the mere fact of supporting good efforts or withdrawing money from other businesses," Scott says.

Corazon S. de la Paz, chair and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co., on the other hand, says the world of corporate social responsibility includes every aspect of business operations, from products and services to relationship with employees, customers, suppliers and communities in which companies operate.

In a recent Harry Interactive survey of 26,000 customers, De la Paz says social responsibility was one of six main categories used to gauge the reputations of well-known companies. The five other categories were emotional appeal, vision and leadership, products and services, workplace environment and financial performance.

De la Paz stresses that Asia needs more socially responsible investing as nearly one of three Asians is considered poor.

"Reduction of poverty underscores the need for socially responsible investing in Asia. The strategy is for Asian business to undertake socially inclusive development plans that create mechanisms of alleviating poverty as they provide impetus in promoting sustainable environment projects," De la Paz says.

De la Paz says the Philippine business sector has not been remiss in socially responsible investing. Spearheading the efforts are the Philippine Business for Social Progress since 1970, Philippine Business for the Environment, Asian Institute of Management, Makati Business Club and other private business foundations.

Some major companies that have engaged in responsible investment include Shell Philippines Inc. which implements aquaculture projects in Palawan and Batangas with the assistance of the Center for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency.

The Philippine Geothermal Inc. employs community development specialists to carry out social services and improvement projects in the Tiwi and Makiling-Banahaw projects; Benguet Corp. and the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation implemented a mine phase out plant to ensure the Aetas basic services and community development.

De la Paz says socially responsible investment is moving forward in Japan and Hong Kong but progress has been slow in Asia due mainly to the financial crisis that left many Asian corporations in bad shape.

Scott, however, says it must push through as he believed that it has the potential to assist and materially strengthen the Asian economic landscape.

"Indeed, it has the potential to be a formidable source of "people power" in the corporate world here in the Philippines and across much of Asia," he says.

As Scott says in closing, there is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

e-Learning: Mixing the right stuff to optimize Web-based training

(From page C4)

pace and they concentrate more because they learn when they want to learn.

"However, it still depends on the material. Right now technical skills are best taught through e-learning while soft skills or people skills are still best taught in the classroom," he says.

There are also cultural and language barriers to consider as well as the low priority people generally place on "self study." Some elderly employees might also have this tendency to resist change, particularly if it will affect how they do their work.

Thus, building up the motivation among employees to embrace Web-based training could be a problem.

"All things being equal, the Web is a better delivery method for technical training. The classroom is better for interpersonal skills training. However, all things are not equal. The practical realities of modern business are helping to fuel a movement to offer interpersonal skills training online," says Davis.

"Although this transition is still in its infancy, there are several Web providers of soft-skills training courses, and more are joining the fold each month. This movement from technical online training to soft-skills online training is due in part to the sheer demand for it."

Bandwidth constraints have also lessened as more telecommunications and IT companies invest in infrastructure. For the Philippines, however, this could still be a major deterrent since cost is an important consideration.

Davis outlines five major considerations in coming up with an effective but affordable e-learning strategy:

1. For all the different types of training courses you make available, should they be offered online, in the classroom, or both?

2. If the same course is offered online and in a classroom, should the delivery method be the learner's choice, or should other factors (e.g., location, technological capabilities, and cost) dictate what method should be used for training?

3. Should a portion of each course's content be offered online? And if so, should it proceed, be part of, or follow the classroom experience?

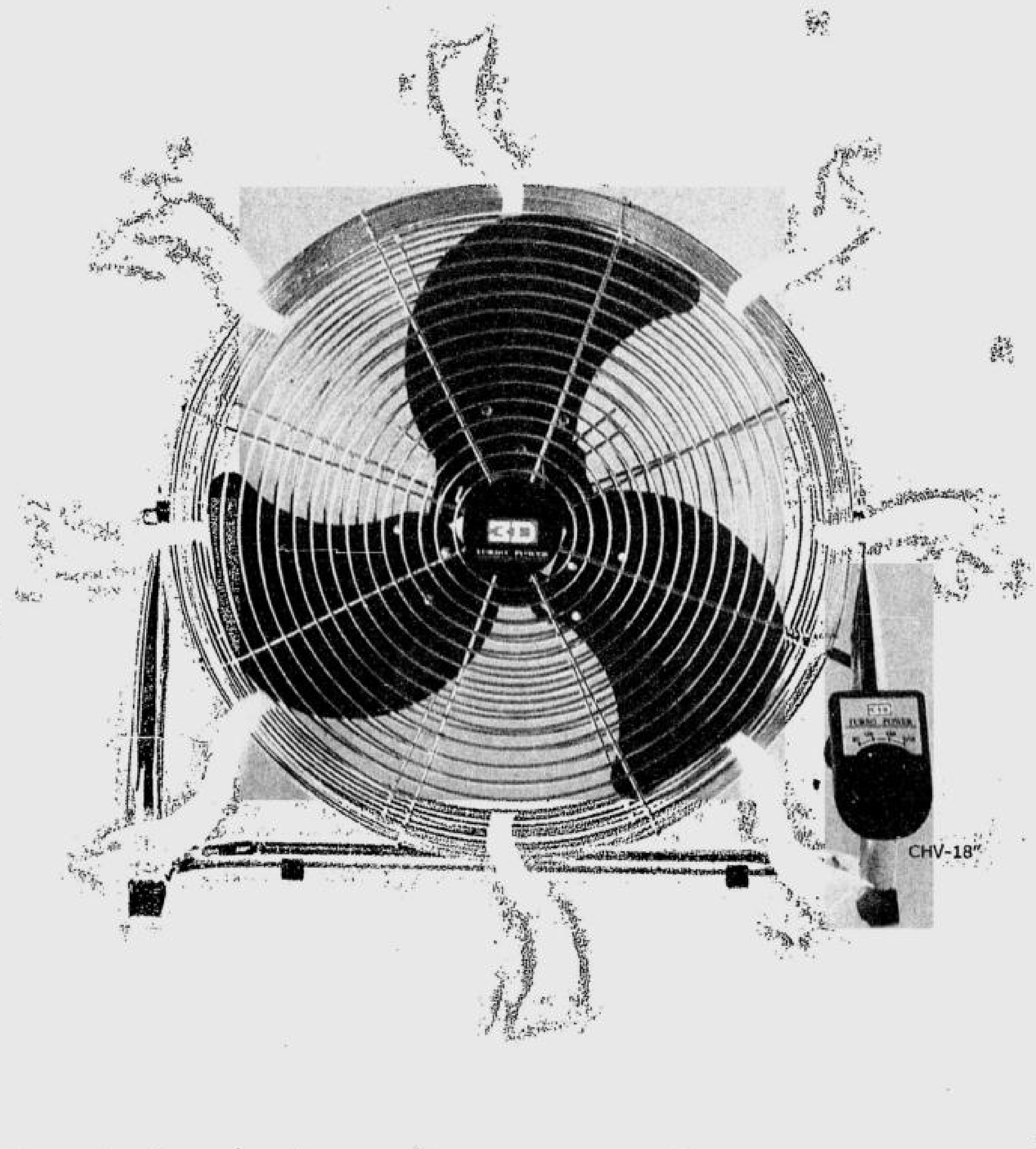
4. If departmental charge-back fees for training are utilized, should they encourage one type of training over another?

5. How should you convey the differences in these training choices to the learner and his or her manager?

In a nutshell, determining the right combination of Web-based tools and classroom training is the real challenge for HR companies or any company for that matter in this age of technological advancements.

"In the end, it is the learning itself rather than the delivery method that is the most important component of training and development . . . Ultimately, companies that deploy a well-mixed training strategy will see the magic in the sustainable competitive advantage they will enjoy," says Davis.

Walang takas ang init



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Final National Artist nominees known

ANG Kiukok

Ang Kiukok, Cesar Concio, F. Sionil Jose, Corazon Iñigo and the late greats Severino Montano and Ishmael Bernal are a step closer to becoming the country's newest National Artists

By Gino Dormiendo

MARCH 7, a Wednesday, could have been just an ordinary working day for most of us except that the task ahead for some 70 people was truly a monumental one: the selection of the final nominees for the National Artist Awards for Year 2001. The Gawad Pambansang Alagad ng Sining is the highest national recognition given to Filipinos who have made significant contributions to the development of Philippine arts, measured in terms of vision, creativity and imagination, technical proficiency of the highest order in expressing Filipino culture and traditions, history, way of life and aspirations.

The invitation to sit in the deliberation panel came from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, which has been mandated, jointly with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, to administer the National Artist Award, with the NCCA executive director Virgilio Almario as chair. This year, the Award Secretariat had formed a Special Research Group that validated the works and achievements of the nominees in the seven disciplines, namely, Literature, Theater, Film and Broadcast Arts, the Visual Arts and Architecture, Music and Dance.

Subsequently, the National Artist Award

FINAL/ p.D2

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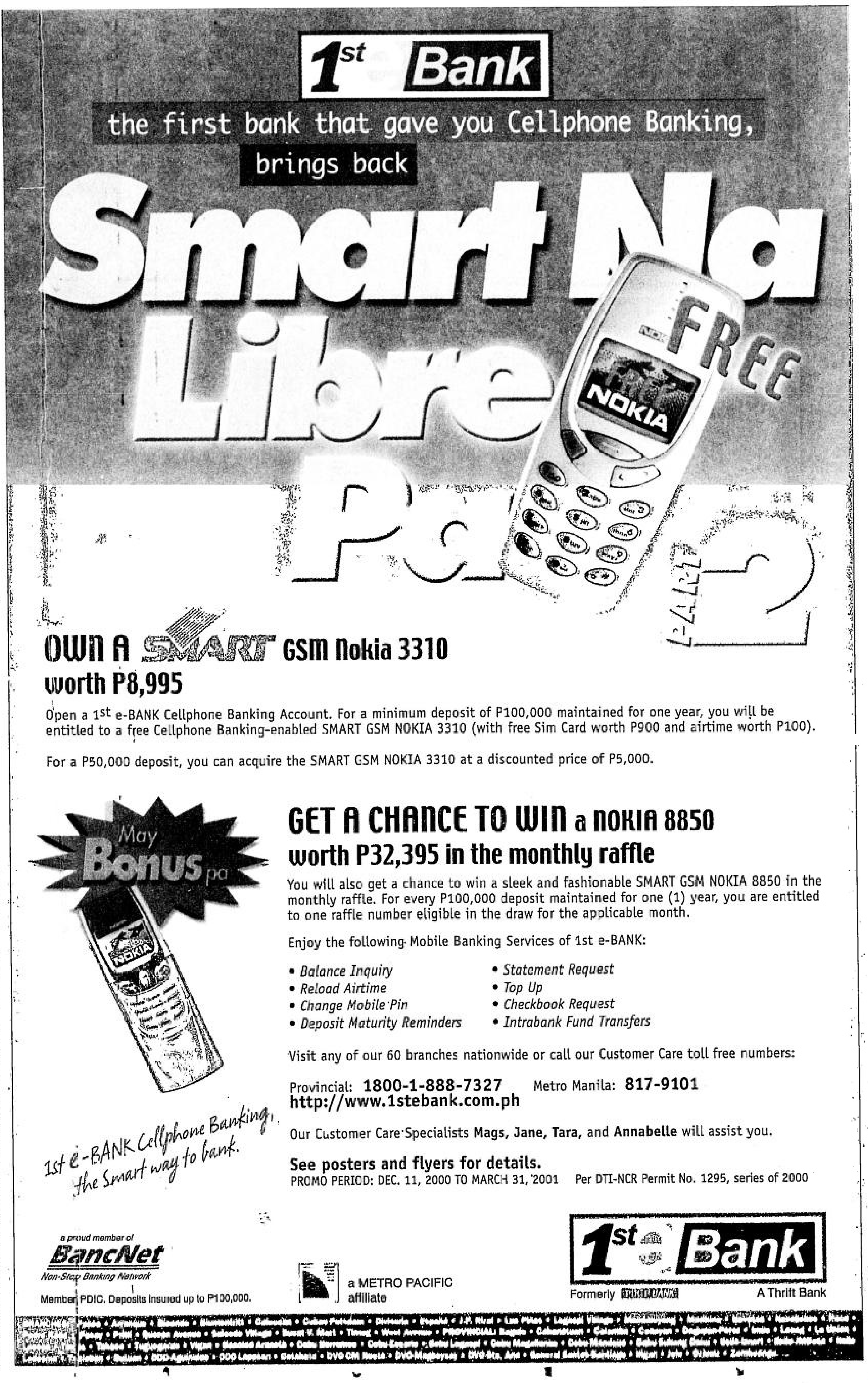

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Final National Artist nominees known

(From page D1)

Council of Peers was formed this year to screen the nominees and recommend them to the NCCA and CCP board of commissioners. Composed of experts in their respective disciplines, the NAAW Council of Peers, with members from both the National Capital Region and the various regions, was mandated to deliberate on the list of nominees, first by voting on the nominees previously submitted, and later, in the second deliberation, which now included the past National Artists, to recommend their choices before a plenary body composed of three representatives from each discipline, with the joint NCCA and CCP boards confirming the nominees (both Almario and Mita Rufino were present).

The final list of nominees this year had a total of 44 names, with the Visual Arts leading the pack with 14, followed by Literature with 11, Architecture and Design with seven, Music with four, Dance and Theater with three each, and Film and Broadcast Arts at the tail-end with just two names.

The first deliberation session for Film and Broadcast Arts, where I belonged, had a motley group composed of Tikoy Aguiluz, Boots Anson Roa, Dez Bautista, Nick Deocampo, Mario Hernando, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Dely Magpayo and myself. (Marilou Diaz Abaya had been invited but couldn't make it.)

LARRY Alcala

CORAZON Iñigo

ISHMAEL Bernal

ANDREA Veneracion

Bernal

Since our group had only two names to choose from, it was a choice between Ishmael Bernal and Eddie Romero. (Some of us wondered aloud why Nora Aunor was not short-listed or, for that matter, distinguished filmmakers like Manuel Conde and Manuel Silos.) Because our short list was truly short enough, a matter which we had to formally take up for clarification, the discussions centered on who was more deserving of the honors. After a long and heated discussion the entire morning, we ended up voting unanimously for Bernal, who many of us thought is as equally deserving of national honors as the late Lino Brocka.

The three chosen members from our panel—Aguiluz, Bautista and myself—then prepared for the second round of deliberations set that same afternoon. We decided to divide the presentation among us, so we could discuss the manifold achievements and legacy of our candidate.

We were, however, to discover later that a number of the other panels had more than one candidate to endorse to the body. The Visual Arts and Literature, for instance, had four names each, Architecture had three, while Dance had two candidates. The matter was ably defended by their spokespersons who insisted that the decision was arrived in a collective manner. Their unusually long list was, of course, roundly accepted, but in the deliberations that followed, they ultimately decided, with much hesitation and pleading, to recommend just one name.

Of the three names in Architecture, two—one living, the other deceased—fought valiantly to the last moment. But not before their lifetime work were assessed, their contributions to the improvement of Philippine life thoroughly discussed, and including such matters as their views on and work for public housing. The final choice, after the entire assembly had to cast their votes on the ground that the assigned panel refused to submit just one name, was Cesar Concio, now aged 93, with the late Guillermo "Wili" Fernandez coming in a close second. In Dance, of the three nominees that included prima ballerina Maniya Barredo, Corazon Iñigo and Ramon Obusan, both alive and still active in their work as choreographers and researchers, emerged as contenders. Their parallel careers were discussed, analyzed and ultimately judged. The final choice by their peers, composed of Eddie Elejar, Steve Villaruz and Nestor Jardin, was Iñigo.

The field of Music originally had four nominees in the short list—Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, Alfredo Buenaventura, Gilopez Kabayao and Natividad "Nena" del Rosario-Villanueva. Strangely, though, the panel composed of Delia Besa and National Artists Lucrecia Kasilag and Andrea Veneracion, reported to the assembly that their peers had decided not to endorse anyone. Their decision, initially puzzling, was deemed final and irrevocable by the recommending panel.

Ang and Jose make it

The three member-peers of the Visual Arts group (critics and art professors Alice Guillermo, Patrick Flores and Eric Torres), however, had come up, as endorsed by their colleagues, with not just one name, but four: Larry Alcala, Ang Kiukok, Diosdado Lorenzo and Francisco V. Coching. Their panel, however, later relented, with equal regret and hesitation, to eliminate two names—Coching and Alcala—and, much later, when pressed to nominate one, eventually settling on Ang Kiukok as their final choice.

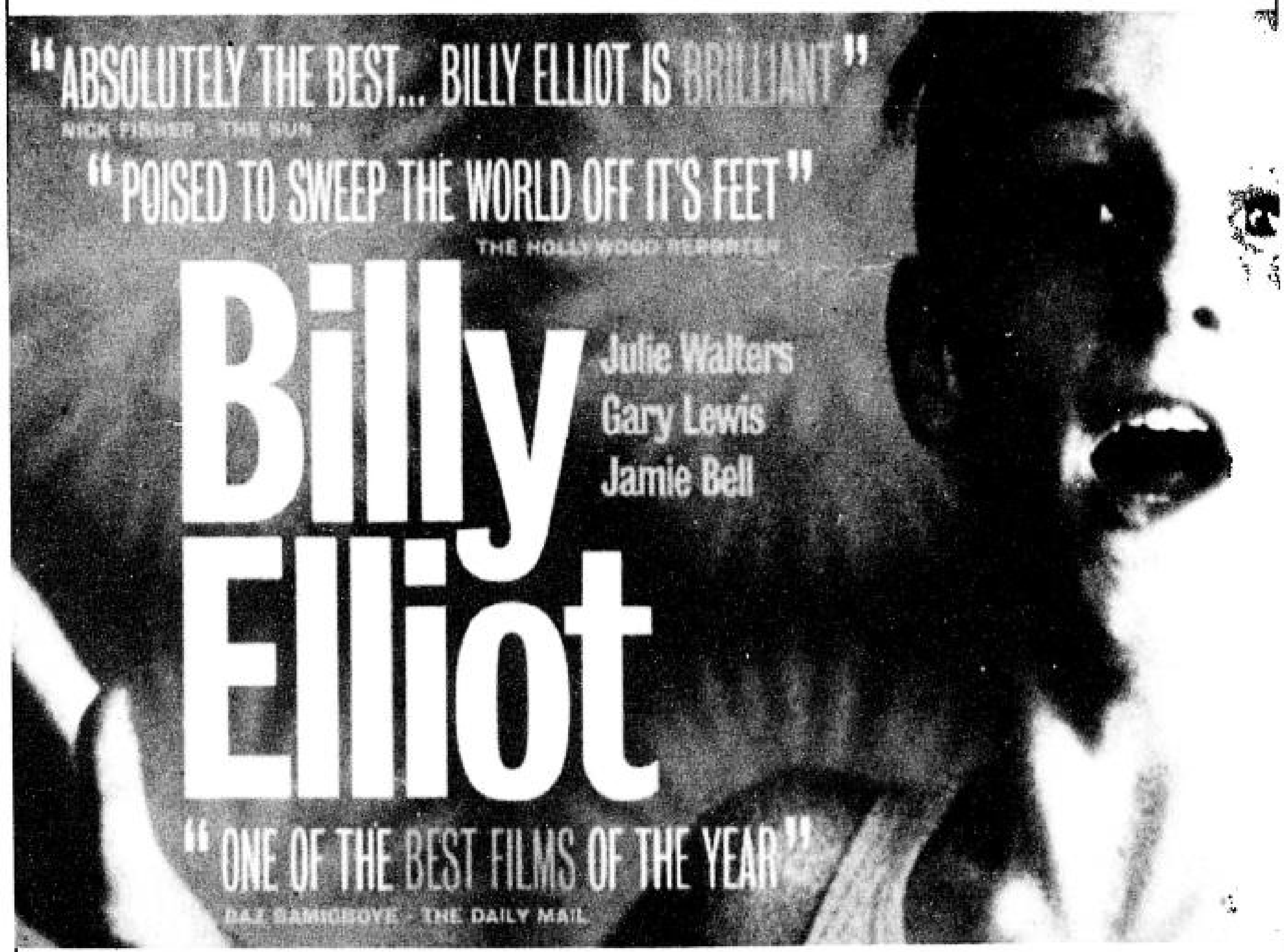
The same problem surfaced anew in the Literature group's presentation. With four nominees in contention—Lazaro Francisco, Juan Hidalgo, Ramon Muzones and F. Sionil Jose—their presenters refused to relent so that the list can be whittled down: Ultimately, after extended bickering, they decided to eliminate two names, leaving Jose and Muzones as final contenders. When reminded that they may unduly jeopardize their chances of getting a slot in the final approving body in Malacañang, the group's final choice emerged: F. Sionil Jose.

The Theater group, however, had only one candidate from the list of three—that included Zeneida Amador, Amelia Lapena Bonifacio and Severino Montano—with the last name as their group's choice, backed up by a scholarly treatise on Montano's work and contributions to Philippine theater courtesy of Tony Mabesa, Behn Cervantes and Nick Tiongson.

Our three-man group on Film had made such an impression that afternoon that executive director Almario himself commented that our manner of presentation was worthy of emulation. With our highly impassioned endorsement, highlighting in anecdotal and critical modes the life, career and legacy of Bernal, we convincingly proved to one and all that Bernal is truly worthy of the highest honors of the National Artist. We knew Bernal as well as his films by heart and, in the process, put across our message clearly—and most convincingly.

We only hope that Bernal's name—together with the rest of the final nominees—will ultimately win President Macapagal-Arroyo's nod. The awards will be conferred in June.

As to the other artists who, for one reason or another, did not make it this year, there's 2003 to look forward to, which is the next season for selecting and honoring the National Artist awardees.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Billy Elliot
Julie Walters
Gary Lewis
Jamie Bell
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR"
BAZ BAMIGBOYE - THE DAILY MAIL

City Lite 88.3

Billy Elliot (Jamie Bell) is an 11-year-old boy living in northeast England in the mid-1980s. While his gruff father and brother are taking part in a massive coal miners strike, Billy goes to boxing lessons and furtively plays his dead mother's piano out of loneliness. One day Billy notices a ballet class nearby. Intrigued, he begins practicing and taking lessons from Mrs. Wilkinson (Julie Walters), a tough-minded teacher. Billy begins to fall in love with ballet but keeps his lessons a secret from his family, who struggle to put food on the table while the strike drags on. When his father finally learns the truth, a family crisis erupts, and Billy struggles to prove that dancing is more than just a hobby—it's his dream.

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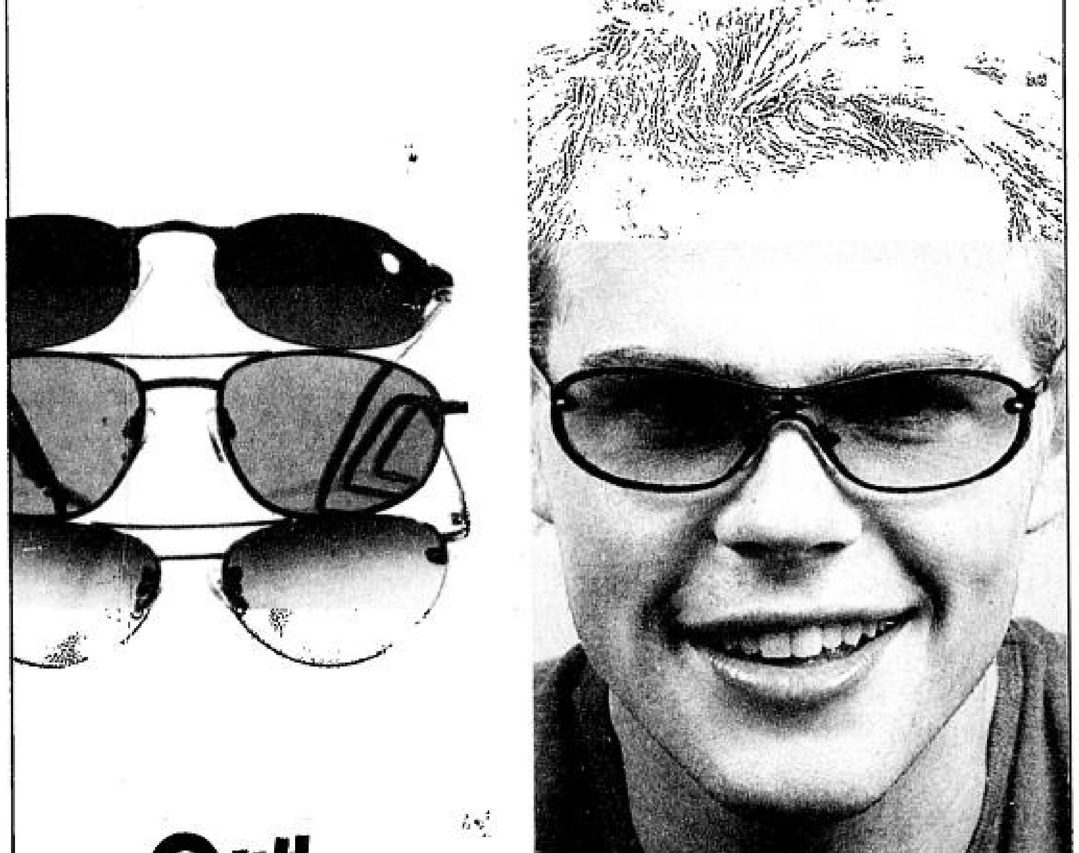

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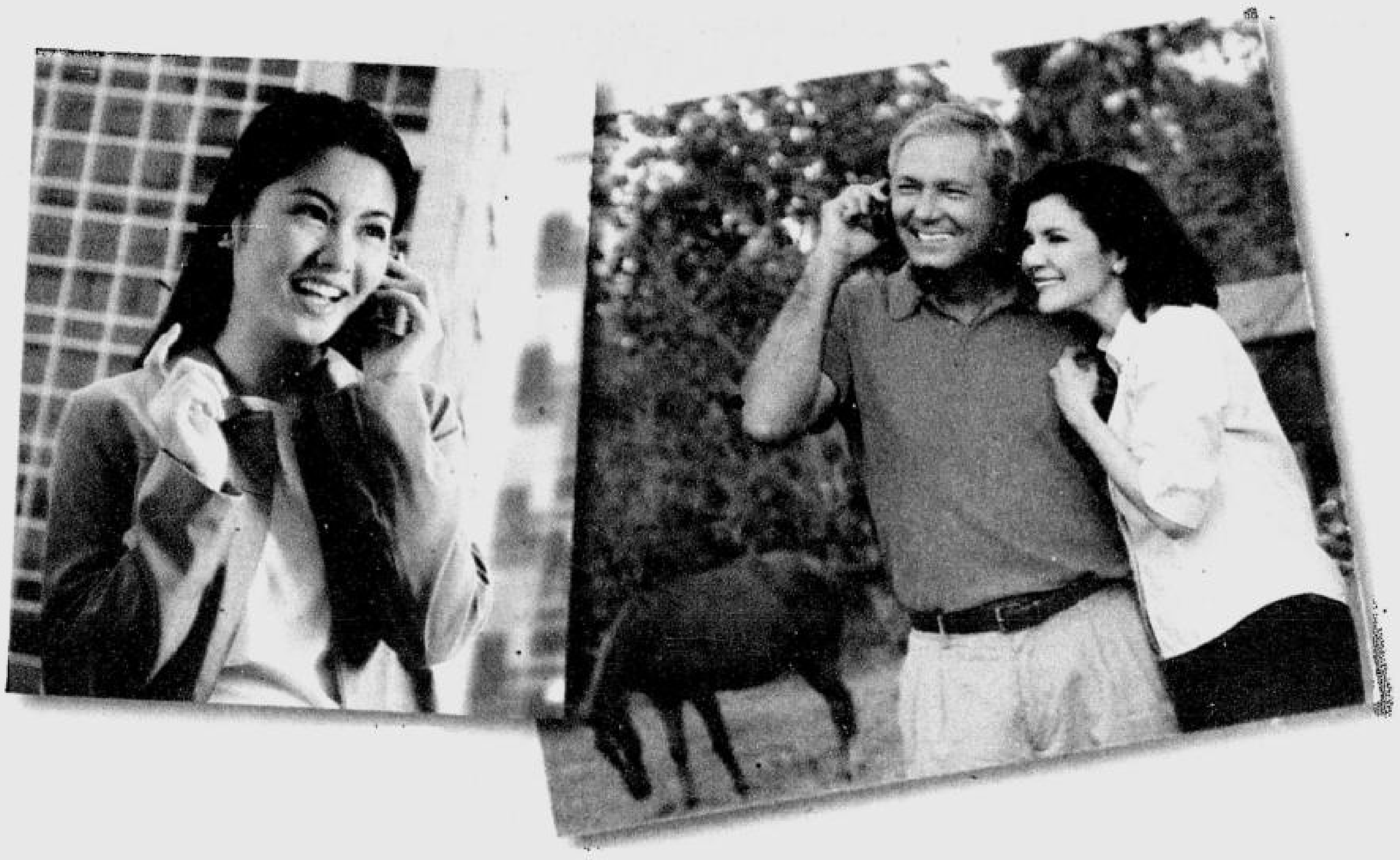

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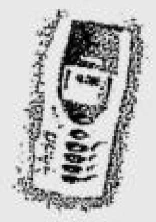
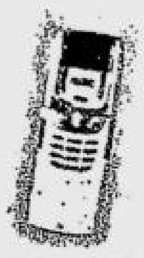


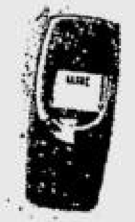
Nokia 8250



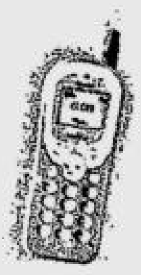
Nokia 8890

Nokia 5110i

Siemens S40



Nokia 3310



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Jun Martinez and Jun Tiongco at Gallery 828

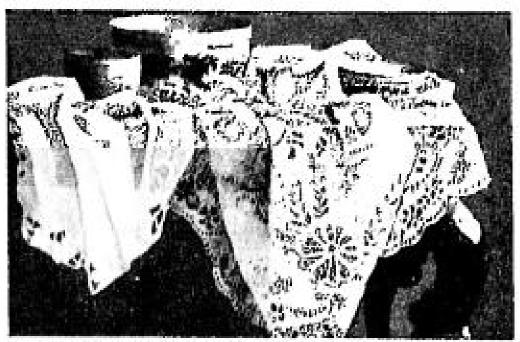
CHILDREN basking in the summer sun. Jars and still life in a well-loved home. These are the images one can see in "Impressions: Land of Our Youth," a back-to-back art exhibit of painters Jun Martinez and Jun Tiongco at the Gallery 828 in Shangri-La Plaza Mall opening on March 15 at 6 p.m.

Both artists found themselves having more in common than just their names. Both of them are self-taught. They are both driven to pursue their art. Both show a mastery for a variety of media from oil to watercolor. And both paint in the impressionist style characterized by the special attention given to the way sunlight falls on their subjects, achieving brilliance and luminosity.

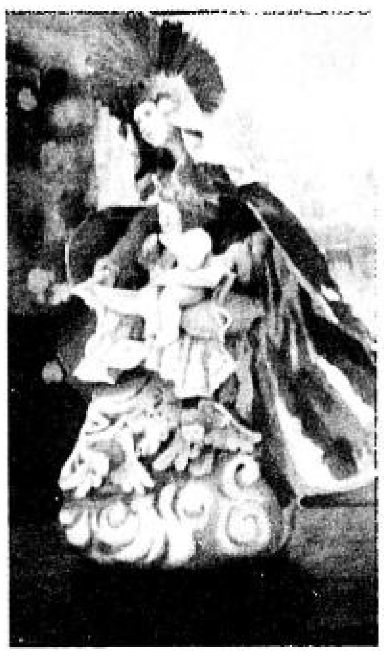
Martinez hails from Bacolod and confesses to have liked painting and drawing since he was a child. He was an illustrator for textbooks and children's books before going full-time into painting. At first, he was doing surreal cubist work, then settled into the impressionist style. His favorite subjects are children spending their summers in the provinces. Martinez has won his share of awards, the latest as runner-up in the 1999 Kulay Sa Tubig Invitational Watercolorists Competition. He is an active member of the Tuesday Group.

Tiongco, on the other hand, known for his attention to detail in rendering florals, grew up in Tanay. As a sickly child, he spent many an afternoon looking at the windowsill and the objects in their home, thus these (windows, vases, flowers) were his usual subjects when he pursued painting. Tiongco spent a semester at the UP College of Fine Arts, then continued his education hanging out with the likes of Tam Austria and the rest of the Tanay artists. He has exhibited in the US, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

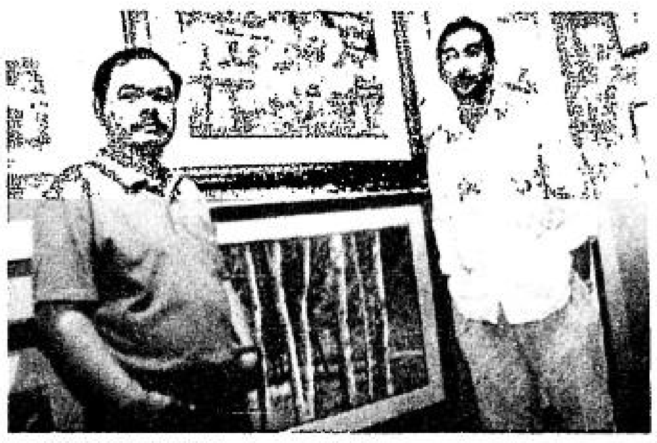
Call 637-5795/5796.



"**RED** Background" by Jun Tiongco



"**BEAUTIFUL** Madonna" by Tiongco



BACK TO BACK. Martinez and Tiongco

ROYSTON TAYLOR AT GALLERY NINE

"Woman Unbalanced by the Force of a Wave (Horses and Figures in Metal)" is the latest exhibit of Manila-based English sculptor Royston Taylor. It features tabletop and life-size metal horses and nudes. It runs until March 24 at Gallery Nine (150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati). Call 899-2704.

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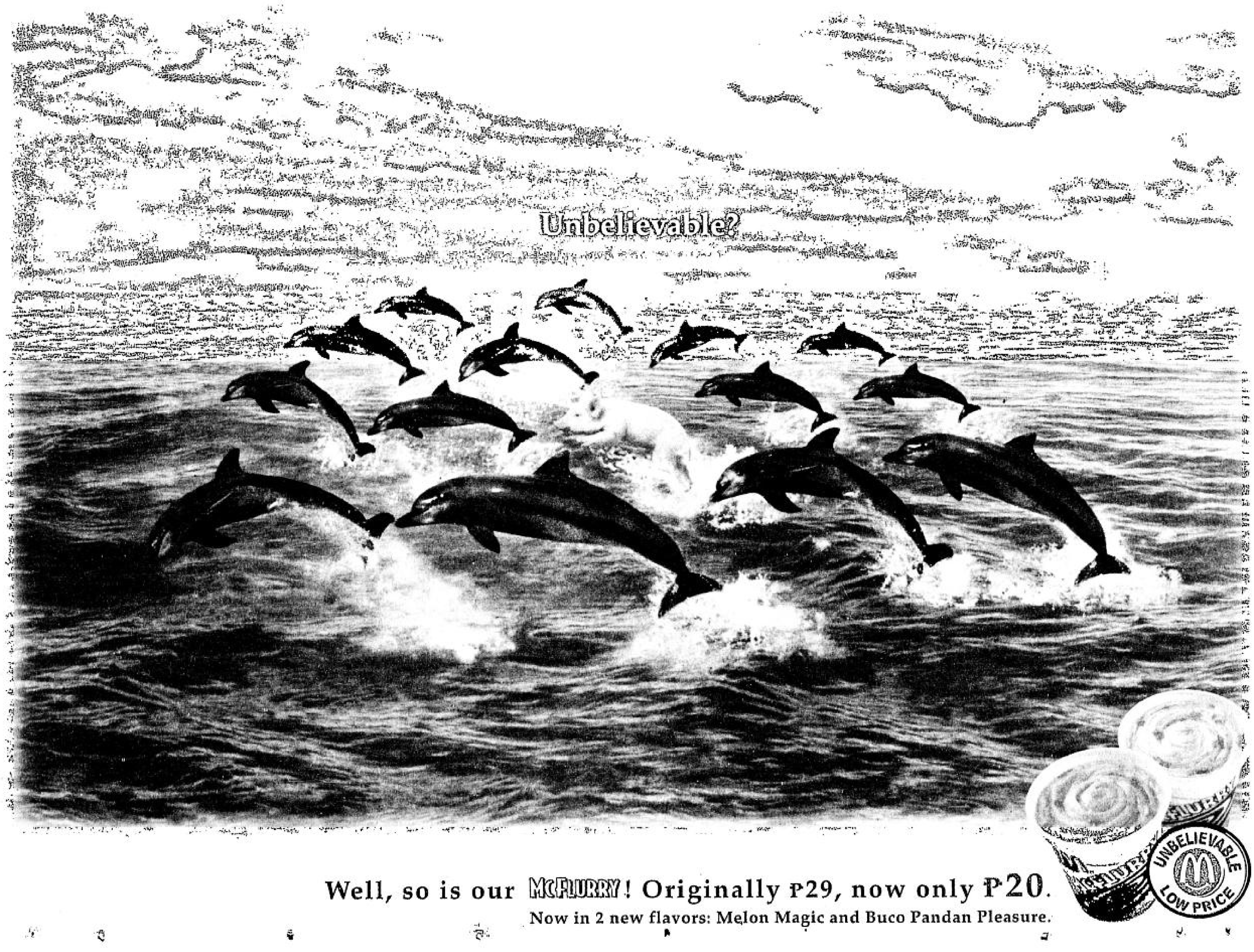

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Visitors to Pulilan chapel who wish to be healed partake of food served

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE FIRST time I stepped into the area surrounding the chapel of the Birhen Biglang Awa in Pulilan, Bulacan, I had goose pimples. It was as if I was on holy ground. The Holy Mass was officiated by Fr. Leo de Jesus, the parish priest of San Isidro Church. People who could not find seats patiently stood during the Mass.

There were others who were cooking on a vacant lot behind the chapel. Men were stirring vegetables in *kawas* placed on top of rocks smouldering with fire. *Pancit* was also being cooked.

After the Mass, people lined up to get food inside *kaings*. The food and rice were placed in plastic bags which were sold for 50 centavos a piece. Some of the food were brought to the sick. Those who stayed to eat believed that they would be healed of their ailment.

Beginning of the devotion

My friend Maripaz Godinez, who has attended the fiesta of the Virgin (which falls on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday) many times, brought me there on March 4 for the 5 a.m. Mass. The chapel was full when we got there. The Birhen Biglang Awa is an icon of the Virgin breastfeeding the Infant Jesus.

How the devotion started was told by Felicitas Joson Garybrick and her sister Victoria Joson Estrada, granddaughters of Lolo Victor Joson who began the devotion in 1905. His son Pedro continued the tradition of celebrating the fiesta until he died in 1974 at the age of 74. His children continued the devotion with the help of Danilo "Boy" Estrada who is married to Victoria.

How the icon was found

It was during the Spanish time when the great great grandfathers of the Josons found the icon carved at the back of a banca's seat which they were riding on one night.

They were Chinese whose surname was Tanjuco and were running away from Spanish soldiers who were pursuing them. The runaways found a hole in the banca so they prayed to God who didn't fail them.

When they reached the shore, they turned the boat upside down and found the icon of the Virgin carved on the spot where the hole was. They immediately named her "Birhen Biglang Awa" because she came to their aid in an instant.

The Virgin travels asking for food

It had been said that the Virgin traveled to Nueva Ecija or Pampanga asking for vegetables and rice which would be brought to where her shrine would be put up in Pulilan. According to Mang Boy, truckloads of veggies would come days before the fiesta. This year, Precilla de Vera sent a whole truck from Baguio, while Cecille Cagatao brought vegetables, rice and noodles from Isabela. Prudencia Cruz also helped.

Food didn't seem to run out.

Nana Dena Santos helps

Before the chapel was built, the fiesta was held in tents. The chapel today, according to Mang Boy, was established on a lot owned by his mother, Francisca de Guzman Estrada. Nana Dena Santos, grandmother of Ciabel Santos, helped put up the roof. A deeply religious woman, Nana Dena believes in the miracles of the Birhen Biglang Awa. She gives flowers to decorate the chapel during the novena Masses and fiesta.

Miracles of healing

Fely Joson Garybrink told me she was cured of lupus when she prayed to the Virgin. Maestra Rosa, who was cured of breast cancer, served as caretaker until she was 90 years old. Bottles of healing oil are given away during the fiesta.

After the morning Mass, the icon was brought to the parish church for the Mass at 8 a.m. The icon was placed on top of a boat that was brought in a carroza which was made to face the altar during the Mass. I prayed for friends who are sick and asked for my continuous healing as well.

Kidney ailment victim needs help

ANNABELLE Celorico, 26, is suffering from end stage renal disease and she needs dialysis. Her father's employer is helping them but the cost of medicine and dialysis has amounted to P20,000 a month. She has written to senators and the PCSO for help. Only the PCSO, at the time it was headed by Rosario Lopez, gave help. Her father is a gardener and her mother, a laundrywoman. Their combined earnings only amount to P5,000 a month.

Can you help this young lady? Please write to Annabelle Celorico at Block 21, Lot 13, Kagitingan St., Karangalan Village, Barangay San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal. Thank you for your kindness.

St. Joseph fiesta

THE BARRIO of Cagliliog in Tinambac, Camarines Sur will celebrate its fiesta on March 18 and 19 to honor St. Joseph. The Parish of St. Joseph with Fr. Julio Buena as parish priest has invited Msgr. Zosimo Zanado, H.P. as main celebrant for the March 19 Mass at 9 a.m.

Novena Masses are held every day at 6 p.m. in the different barangays.

FATHER ARCHIE, founder and adviser of Shalom

Our Lady of the Visitation prayer in Cebuano

THE PRAYER to Our Lady of the Visitation of Carcar in Cebu has been written in Cebuano. Cebuanos in Metro Manila and Luzon can write me for a free novena. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing.

Those residing in the Visayas can write to Edna Toral at No. 2 Humabon St., San Antonio Village, Banilad, Cebu City.

Holy Week in Holy Land

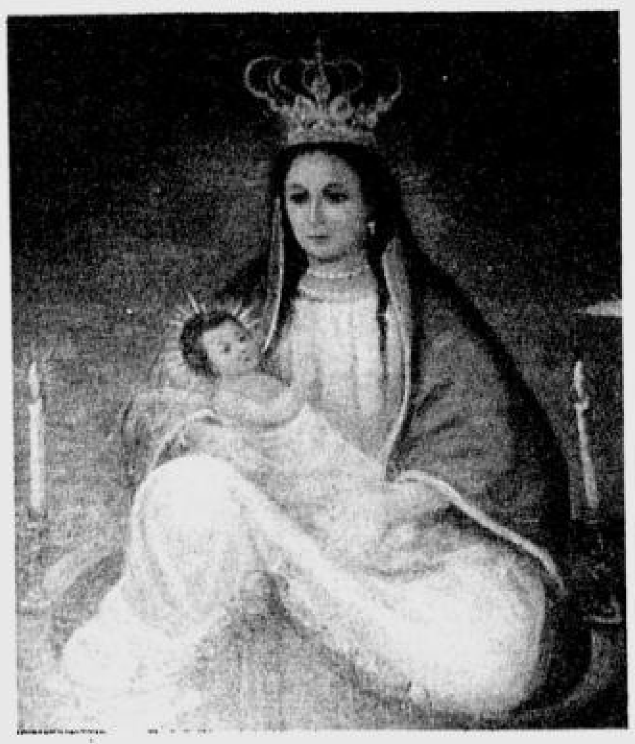
APREX Travel is organizing a trip to Holy Land during the Holy Week. The group will leave Manila on April 7 and is expected to be in Jerusalem in time for Palm Sunday. Those who want to connect to Paris on the way to Lourdes, France can do so. Others can come home to Manila on Easter Sunday. Call Arpex at 525-3883 or 525-3902.

Cagayan Festival honors Our Lady of Piat

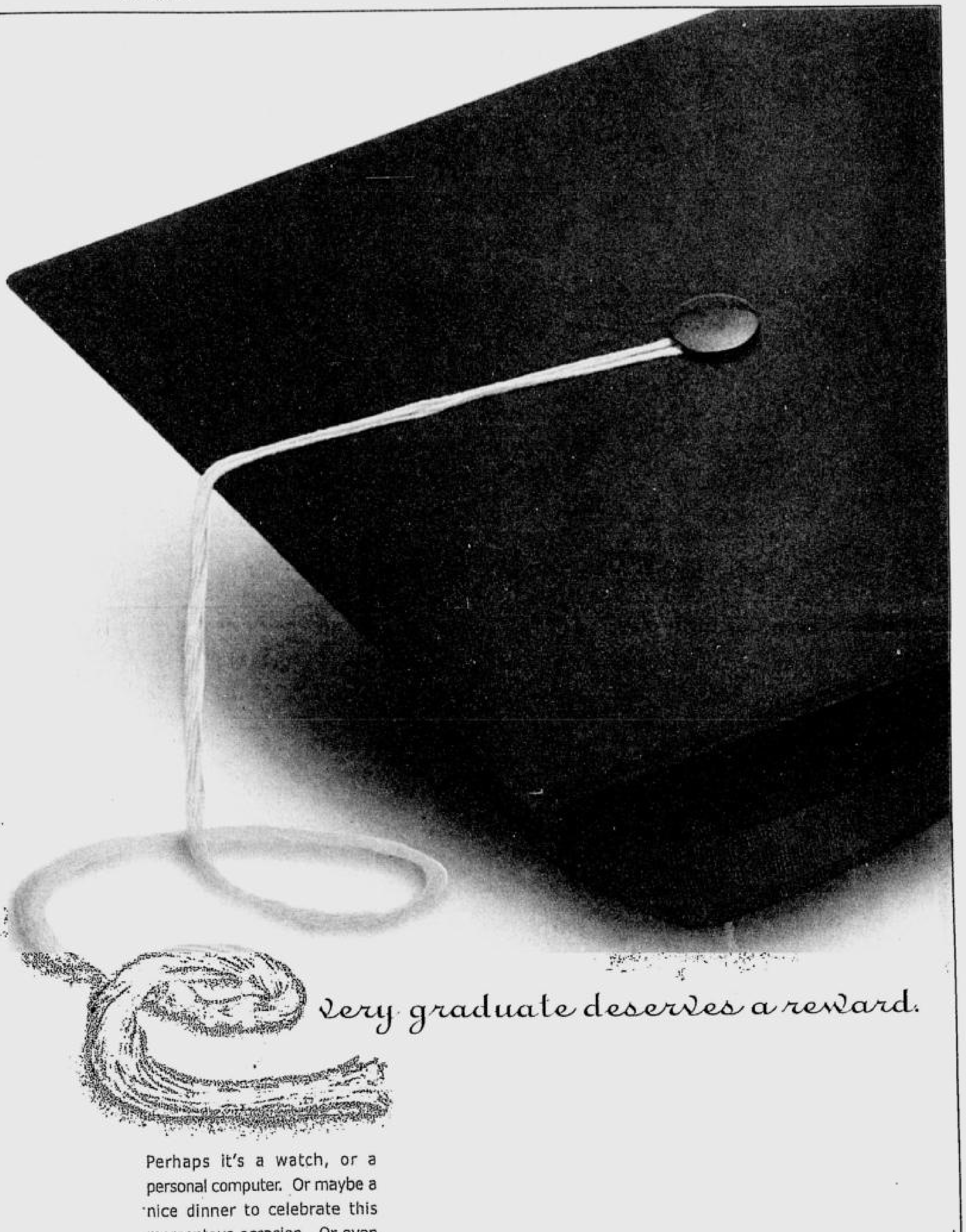
THE PAGAYAYA Food Festival, ongoing at the Holiday Inn until March 17, brings to Manila not only the rich culinary culture of the Cagayan Valley, but also the devotion to Our Lady of Piat, the patroness. A replica image of the Virgin is enthroned in the hotel chapel. Masses are held every day at 12:15 p.m. Those who want to pray to Our Lady of Piat can go there.

St. Philomena novenas

THOSE who want to get copies of the novena to St. Philomena can write to the National Center of the Living Rosary at 430 Mayon St., Quezon City. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.



BIRHEN Biglang Awa is intercessor for healing of the sick



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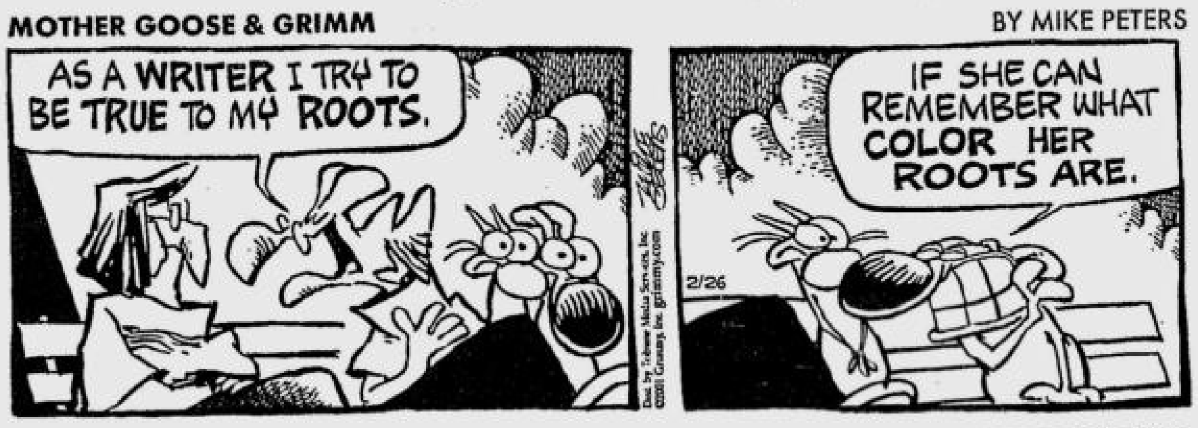
ComicRelief

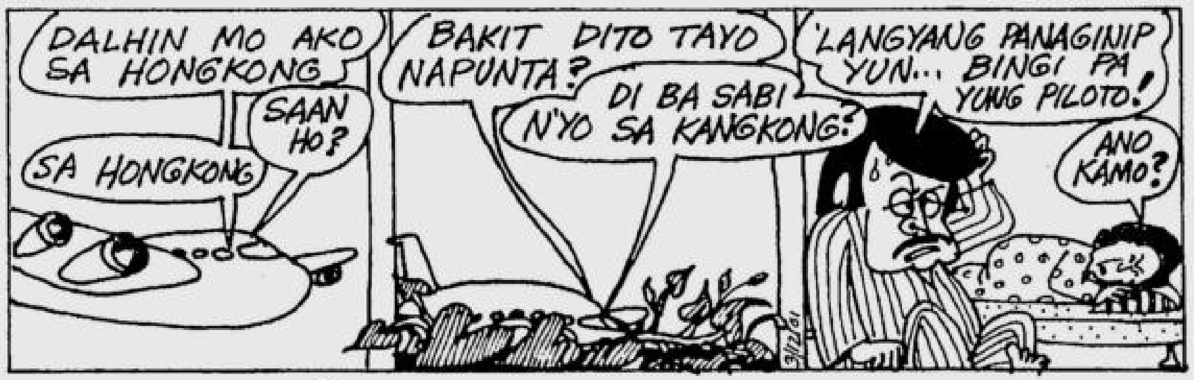
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


AS A WRITER I TRY TO BE TRUE TO MY ROOTS.
IF SHE CAN REMEMBER WHAT COLOR HER ROOTS ARE.
2/26

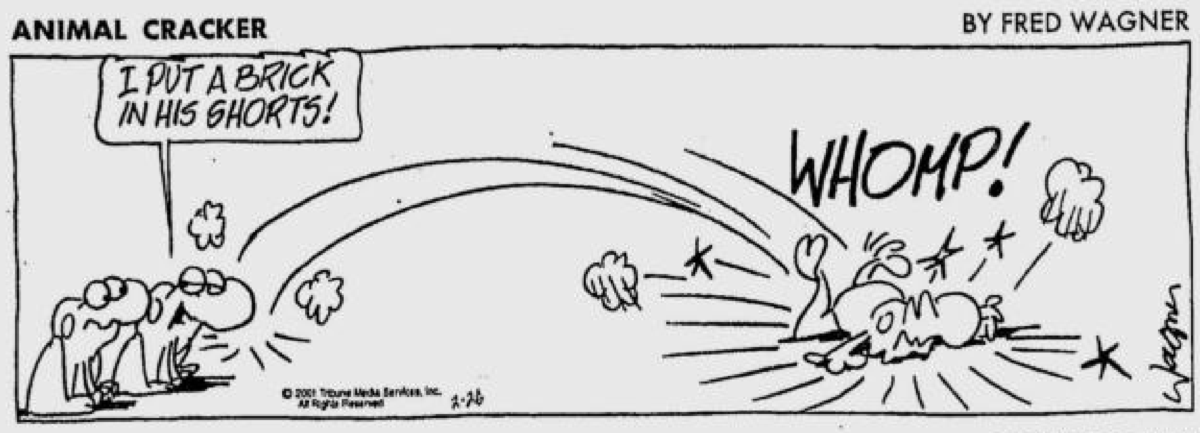
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DALHIN MO AKO SA HONGKONG
SAAN HO?
SA HONGKONG
BAKIT DITO TAYO NAPUNTA?
DI BA SABI N'YO SA KANGKONG?
'LANGYANG PANAGINIP YUN... BINGI PA YUNG PILOTO!
ANO KAMO?

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I PUT A BRICK IN HIS SHORTS!
WHOMP!
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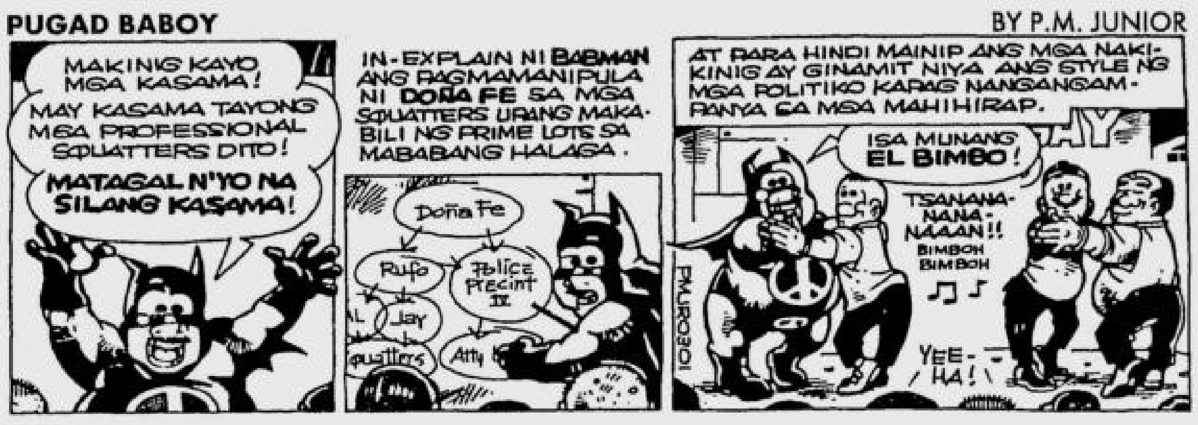
2-26

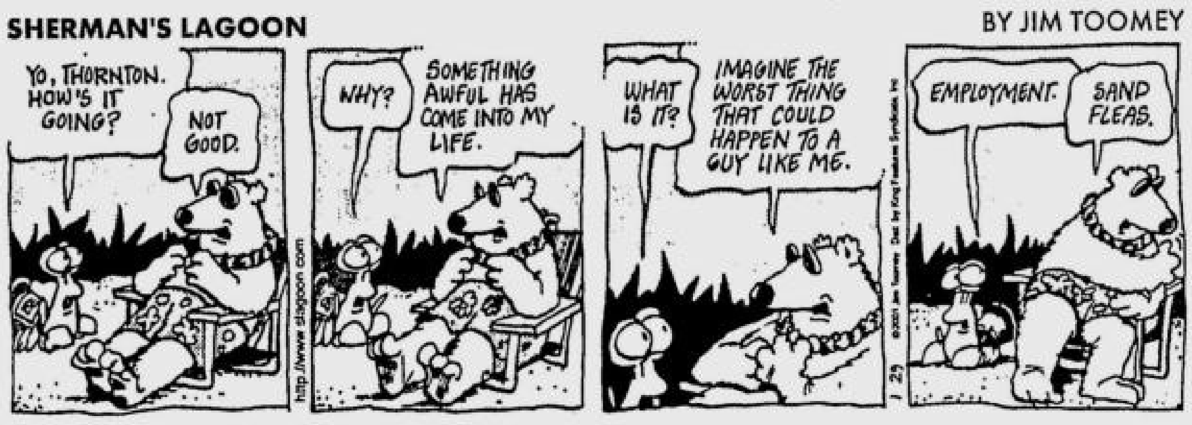
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAKINIG KAYO MGA KASAMA!
MAY KASAMA TAYONG MGA PROFESSIONAL SQUATTERS DITO!
MATAGAL N'YO NA SILANG KASAMA!
IN-EXPLAIN NI BABMAN ANG PAGMAMANIPULA NI DOÑA FE SA MGA SQUATTERS UPANG MAKABILI NG PRIME LOTS SA MABABANG HALAGA.
Doña Fe
Rufo
Police Precint IX
Jay
quatters
Atty
AT PARA HINDI MAINIP ANG MGA NAKIKINIG AY GINAMIT NIYA ANG STYLE NG MGA POLITIKO PAPAG NANGANGAMPANYA SA MGA MAHIHIRAP.
ISA MUNANG EL BIMBO!
TSANANA-NANA-NAAAN!!
BIMBOH BIMBOH
YEE-HA!
PMJR0301

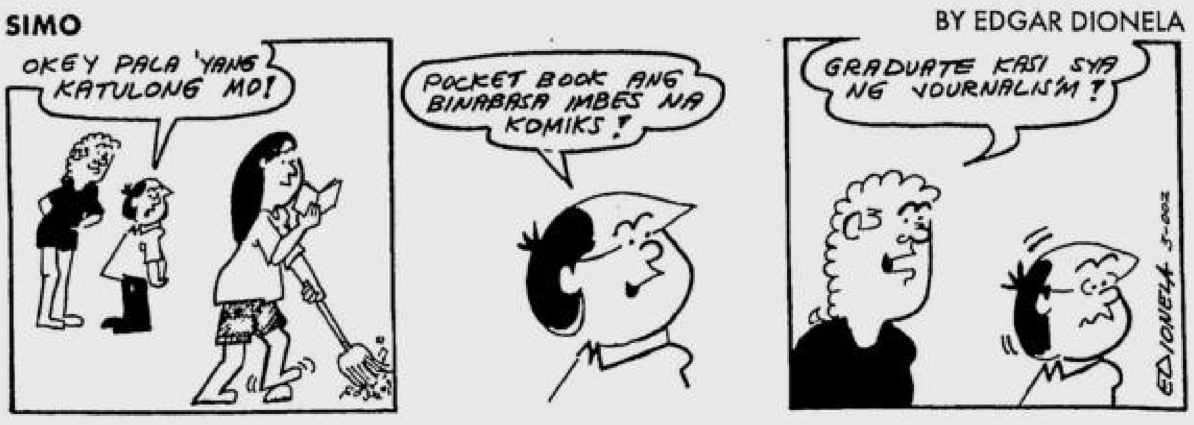
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YO, THORNTON. HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT GOOD.
WHY?
SOMETHING AWFUL HAS COME INTO MY LIFE.
WHAT IS IT?
IMAGINE THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO A GUY LIKE ME.
EMPLOYMENT.
SAND FLEAS.
http://www.slagoon.com

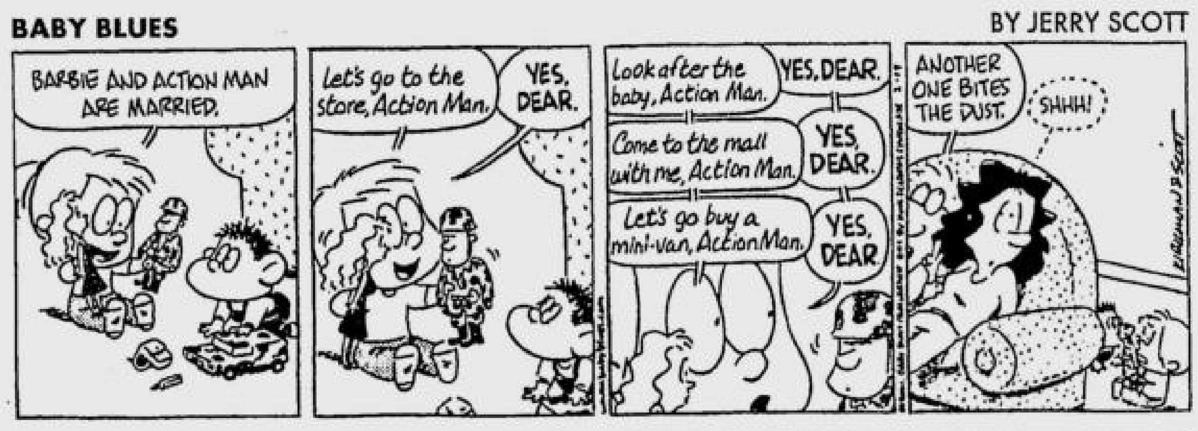
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


OKEY PALA 'YANG KATULONG MO!
POCKET BOOK ANG BINABASA IMBES NA KOMIKS!
GRADUATE KASI SYA NG JOURNALISM!
EDIONELA

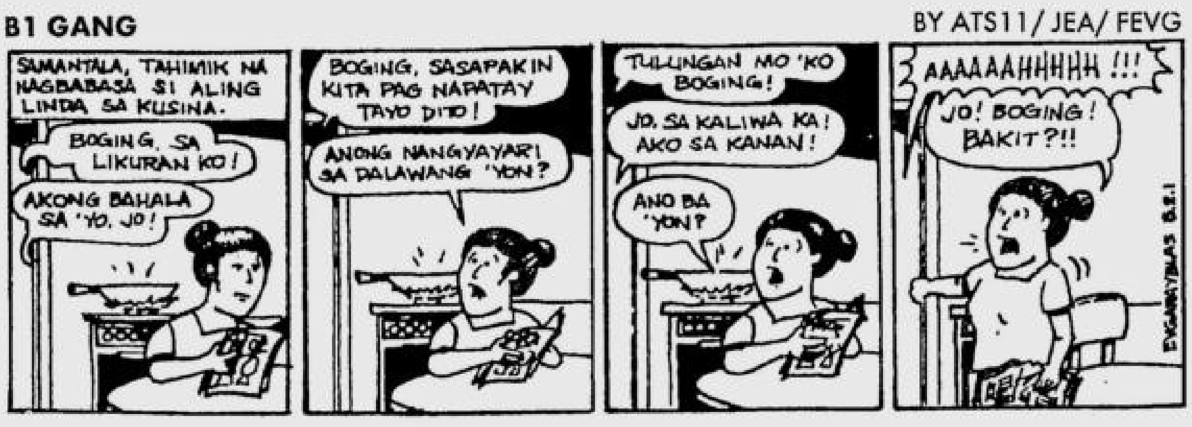
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BARBIE AND ACTION MAN ARE MARRIED.
Let's go to the store, Action Man.
YES, DEAR.
Look after the baby, Action Man.
YES, DEAR.
Come to the mall with me, Action Man.
YES, DEAR.
Let's go buy a mini-van, Action Man.
YES, DEAR.
ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST.
SHHH!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SAMANTALA, TAHIMIK NA NAGBABASA SI ALING LINDA SA KUSINA.
BOGING, SA LIKURAN KO!
AKONG BAHALA SA 'YO, JO!
BOGING, SASAPAKIN KITA PAG NAPATAY TAYO DITO!
ANONG NANGYAYARI SA DALAWANG 'YON?
TULUNGAN MO 'KO BOGING!
JO, SA KALIWA KA! AKO SA KANAN!
ANO BA 'YON?
AAAAAAHHHHH!!!
JO! BOGING! BAKIT?!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liza Minnelli, James Taylor, Darryl Strawberry, Andrew Young, Courtney B. Vance

Happy Birthday: If you plan your actions wisely this year, the rest will be history. Personal relationships may suffer if you spend too much time chasing after the all-mighty dollar. You should try to find a balance and protect what you already have. Push the envelope, and you may lose out where you least expect. Your numbers: 5, 19, 22, 25, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romantic encounters will be stressful, especially if you have more than one on the go. Mixing business with pleasure might be fun, but highly dangerous as well. You must make some serious choices before you ruin your reputation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your hard work will pay off. You should feel satisfied and confident about your professional direction. Don't let negative friends or relatives cause you to question yourself or your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get into those hobbies you've been thinking about. One of them may turn into a lucrative proposition. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Deception is apparent when dealing with family or children. You may want to put some energy into beautifying your living quarters. Make everyone pitch in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel and romance will go hand in hand. Your warm heart will attract many new acquaintances. Get involved in competitive sports. You need a challenge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take chances while operating machinery or equipment. You will be misunderstood if you aren't precise in your explanations to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Love can be hot as long as you avoid getting trapped in a one-sided relationship. You will be lazy and lack discipline when it comes to your fitness program. Don't despair, push yourself a little harder and you'll have the figure you always wanted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on your domestic chores before your family complains about your lack of helpfulness. You may feel a little under the weather. An early evening should help rejuvenate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can meet people with clout if you attend intellectual events. Don't exaggerate about your talents. You may find yourself embarrassed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Erratic behavior by you or your partner will lead to sudden changes in your living arrangements. Consider going for professional help if you wish to improve this union.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opportunities for financial gains are prominent. Lady Luck is with you, and your insight in making the right choices will be advantageous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't put off a doctor's appointment just because you are feeling a little better. Stress is probably at the root of your problem. Rest will be necessary.

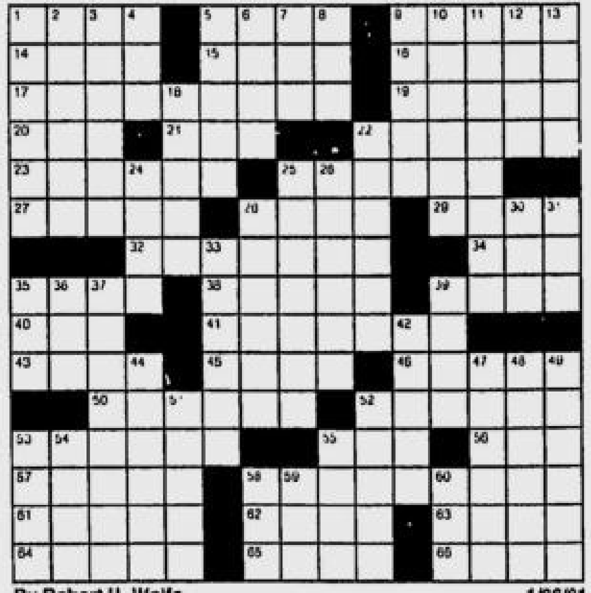
Birthday Baby: You've got a smart way of doing things and will amaze onlookers with your intuition and inventive imagination. Once you prove yourself to others, you will have loyal and long-lasting relationships.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Jason's ship
5 Norway's capital
9 Sound of a wet impact
14 Man of the manor
15 Foray
16 Figure of speech
17 West's corn
19 Wake
20 Wash. neighbor
21 Long in the tooth
22 Elapsed
23 Family cars
25 Garden scoop
27 Lover's meeting
28 Nautical assents
29 Painful
32 Impels
34 Feedbag tidbit
35 Vagabond
38 Clarinetist Shaw
39 On a cruise
40 Reverence
41 Participates
43 Happy starter?
45 Vicinity
46 Cares for
50 For example
52 Word of warning
53 Native-born Israelis
55 Stitched border
56 Weekday abbr.
57 Liquid part of fat
58 Erwin's ragouts
61 That is (to say): Lat.
62 One side of a leaf
63 Different
64 Stands up
65 Help after a heist
66 Recolors

DOWN
1 Not quite
2 Lion, for example
3 Avaricious
4 Eye docs
5 Spoken examinations
6 Pronounced
7 Taylor or Claiborne
8 Keats opus
9 Barn bedding
10 Writes without metrical structure
11 Costello's W.C.s
12 Church section
13 Set up for a drive
18 Calendar page
22 Marshals' bands
24 Concerning
25 Cobb's cravats
26 Eye part
28 Sky lights
30 __ Dawn Chong
31 Letter from Athens
33 Indian princes
35 Possesses
36 Night flyer
37 Arthur's drones
39 Once more
42 Agenda entries
44 Precise grammarian
47 To wit
48 Doze
49 Perceives
51 Tilts to one side
52 Plague (with)
53 Farmland
54 "M*A*S*H" star Alan
55 Very large
58 Fat farm
59 Can opener, of a sort
60 Kennedy or Turner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By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

1/26/01

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	R	C	H	■	S	L	A	P	■	E	A	R	S
A	L	O	H	A	■	H	O	N	E	■	P	L	E	A
M	I	N	E	R	■	A	I	D	S	■	C	A	L	L
A	S	H	■	D	A	N	N	Y	T	H	O	M	A	S
■	■	O	L	L	I	E	■	■	L	A	T	O	Y	A
A	L	W	A	Y	S	■	C	H	E	N	■	■	■	■
R	O	A	D	■	L	A	R	A	■	S	A	B	E	R
I	N	R	E	■	E	V	E	N	S	■	T	I	M	E
D	I	D	N	T	■	E	D	G	Y	■	A	L	M	A
■	■	■	■	E	U	R	O	■	B	A	L	L	A	D
S	A	T	U	R	N	■	■	S	I	L	L	Y	■	■
K	U	R	T	R	U	S	S	E	L	L	■	J	U	S
E	D	I	T	■	S	O	O	N	■	M	O	O	S	E
W	I	P	E	■	E	L	M	O	■	A	R	E	N	A
S	E	E	R	■	D	E	E	R	■	N	O	L	A	N

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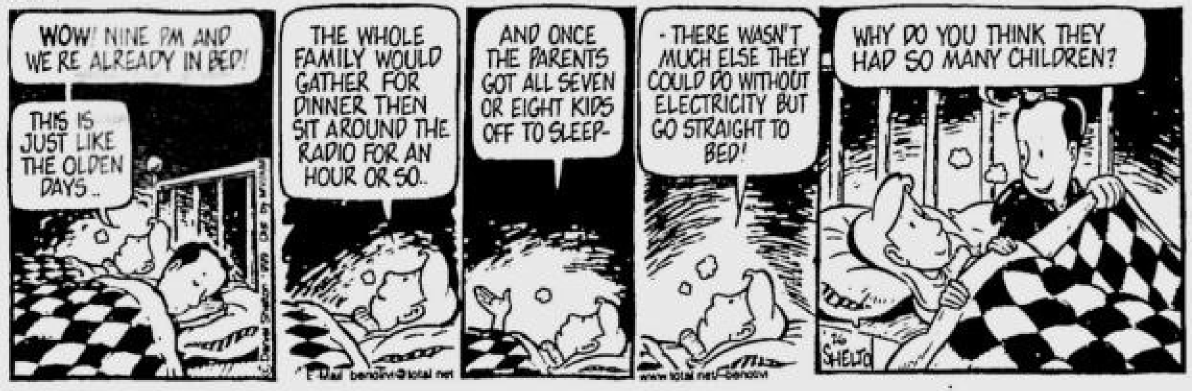
1/25/01

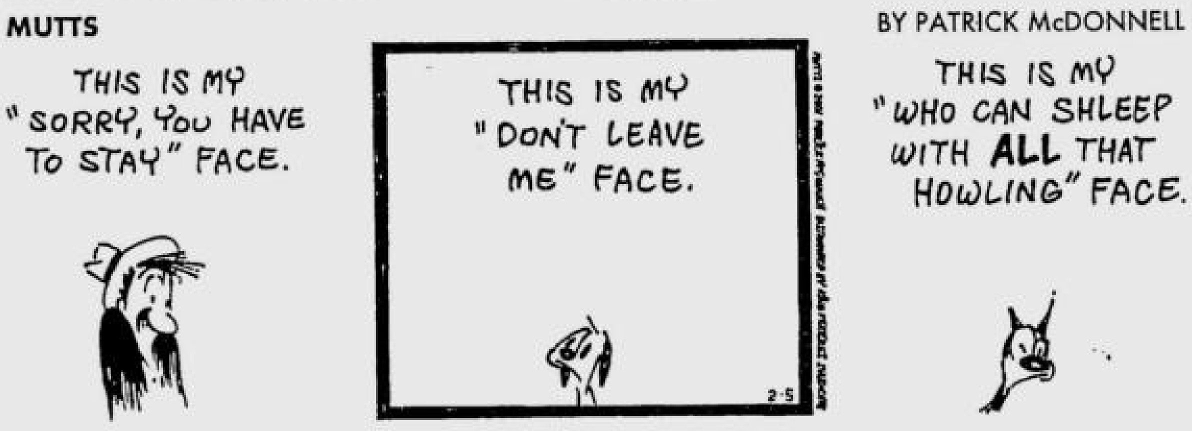
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! NINE PM AND WE'RE ALREADY IN BED!
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE OLDEN DAYS..
THE WHOLE FAMILY WOULD GATHER FOR DINNER THEN SIT AROUND THE RADIO FOR AN HOUR OR SO..
AND ONCE THE PARENTS GOT ALL SEVEN OR EIGHT KIDS OFF TO SLEEP-
-THERE WASN'T MUCH ELSE THEY COULD DO WITHOUT ELECTRICITY BUT GO STRAIGHT TO BED!
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY HAD SO MANY CHILDREN?
E-Mail benolvi@total.net
www.total.net/~benolvi
SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "SORRY, YOU HAVE TO STAY" FACE.
THIS IS MY "DON'T LEAVE ME" FACE.
THIS IS MY "WHO CAN SHLEEP WITH ALL THAT HOWLING" FACE.
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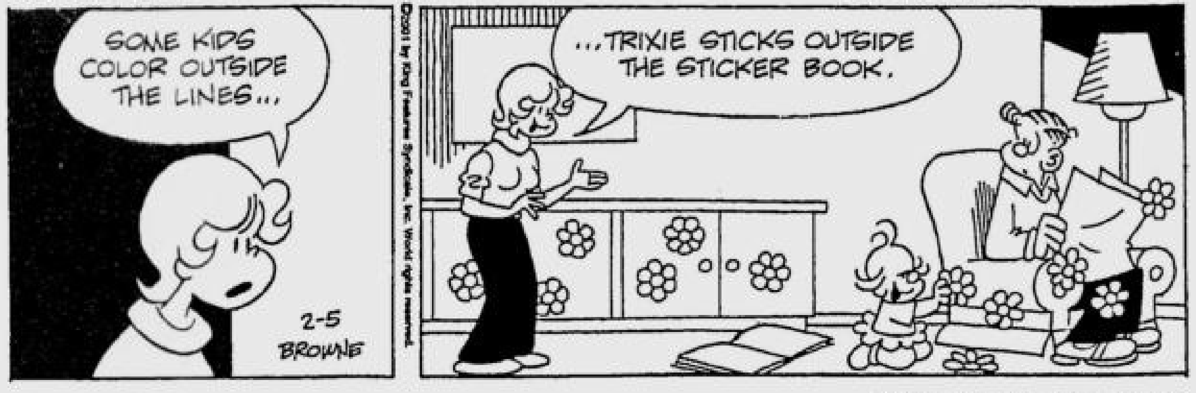
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


SOME KIDS COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES...
...TRIXIE STICKS OUTSIDE THE STICKER BOOK.
2-5
BROWNE
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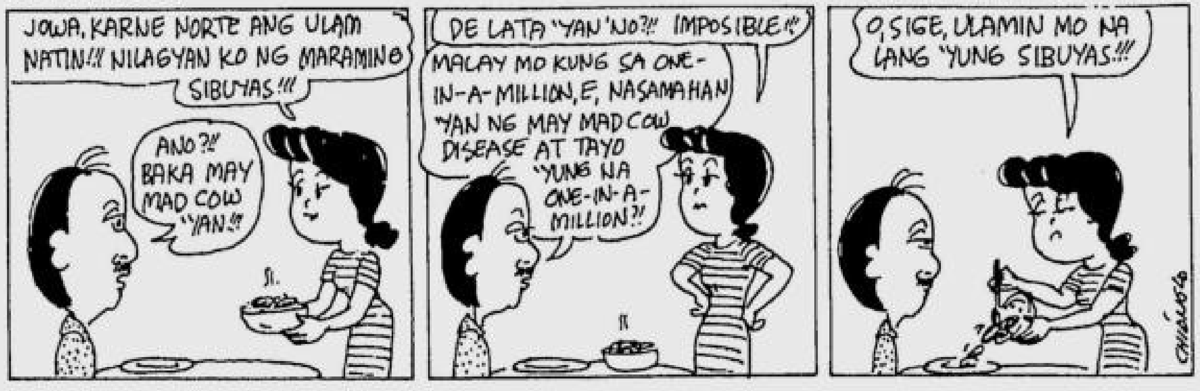
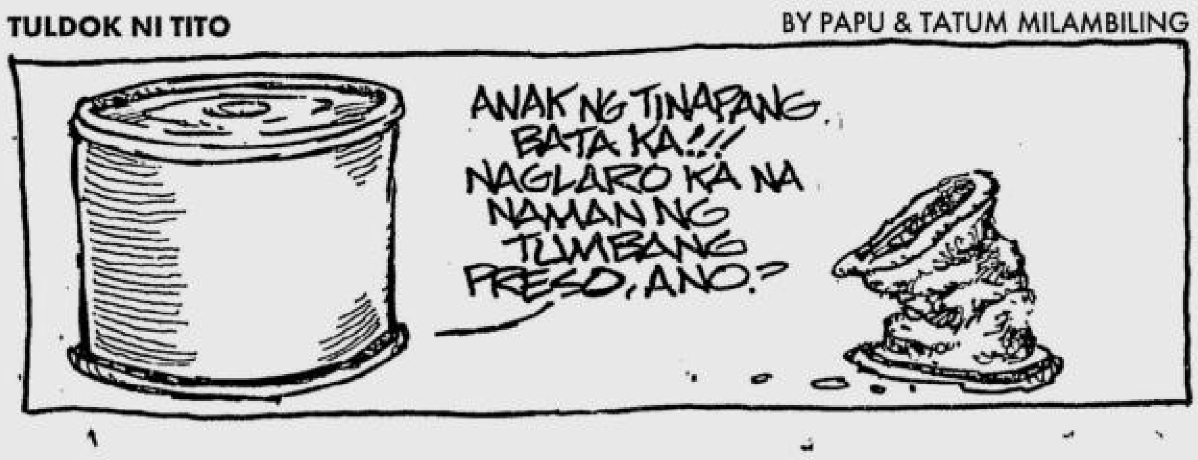
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, KARNE NORTE ANG ULAM NATIN!!! NILAGYAN KO NG MARAMING SIBUYAS!!!
ANO?!! BAKA MAY MAD COW 'YAN!!
DE LATA 'YAN 'NO?!! IMPOSIBLE!!
MALAY MO KUNG SA ONE-IN-A-MILLION, E, NASAMAHAN 'YAN NG MAY MAD COW DISEASE AT TAYO 'YUNG NA ONE-IN-A-MILLION?!
O, SIGE, ULAMIN MO NA LANG 'YUNG SIBUYAS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK NI TITO

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

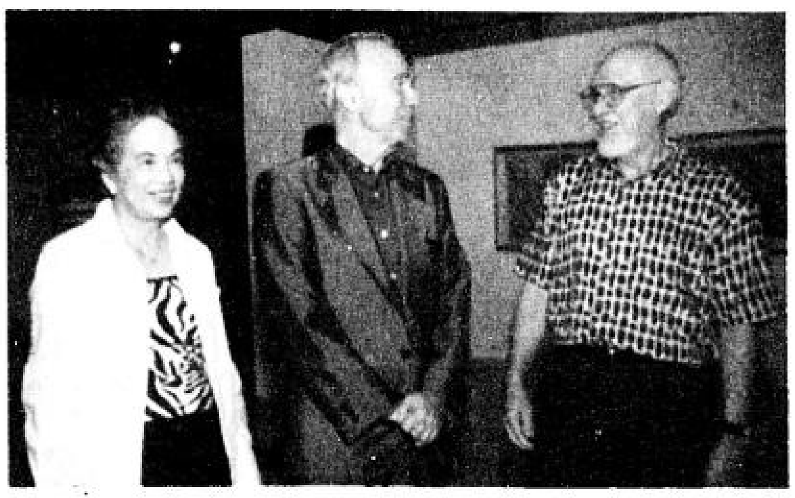

ANAK NG TINAPANG BATA KA!!! NAGLARO KA NA NAMAN NG TUMBANG PRESO, ANO?

SANSÓ, Jun Palafox, Beth Day Romulo, Tessie Luz and Henry Sy

ARACELI Dans, Sansó, Celia Diaz Laurel and son Cocoy Laurel

In a joyful mood as ever with Sansó

LEIAN and Ramon Orlina and Ambet Ocampo



IRENE Roces, Sansó and Ding Roces

MINA Montes and Mila Wales

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

EDGARDO Angara, Ambassador Jackie Foo, Fr. Gabriel Casal, Foreign Undersecretary Baja

BETOY JOHNSON

FCCP president Thelma Gana, Mayor Elenita Binay and Cez Manalo

TWO of our favorite *balikbayan* artists are **Juvenal Sansó** and **Ding Roces**. The former came home recently from Paris, while the latter came home from Sydney with his lovely wife **Irene**.

Juvy, of course, makes his annual homecoming around Christmas up to February, and his itinerary includes holding an exhibit of the year's works at good friend **Henry Sy**'s Art Center at Megamall. When he holds that, expect a gathering of artistic eagles. Last January when he opened his exhibit, well-wishers included **Bencab**, **Rod. Paras-Perez**, **Ramon Orlina**, **Araceli Dans**, **Santi Bose**, **Cocoy Laurel** and his mom **Celia Diaz Laurel**, who had reportedly turned to costume design.

Sansó's "Ligaya" was a delightful surprise with the artist putting his stamp on umbrellas and trying his hand at sculpture and tapestry. This wasn't surprising since his father was a sculptor. If anything our only painter trained in frescoes has proven that he is an artist par excellence in whatever field he chooses. Fittingly, the title of the show captured the essence of his latest *ouevre* —light, bright and full of joy.

* * *

If you have time, drop by the National Museum (okay, so you don't know where it is; it is at the former Legislative Building/Executive House on P. Burgos Drive in Manila). Watch the exhibit of artifacts that have been returned to the country after almost a century after they were put up for the infamous St. Louis Exhibition.

The samples of weave in the *salakots* are simply awesome.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

There's just no collection in existence today that has such variety and quality. But remember there are still Filipino artifact in the basement of the Smithsonian and in the New York Museum of Natural History. They prove that our cultural heritage deserves a better deal.

Despite the disreputable time for the opening of the exhibit launch (9 a.m.), quite a number of the ever-faithful cultural aficionados were present, including **Susan Medina**, **John Silva**, **Jonathan Best**, **Virgie Moreno**, NCCA chair **Jaime Laya**, **Marietta de la Hoya**, Singapore Ambassador **Jackie Foo**, who looked young enough to be a college student, and the new Instituto Cervantes director, **Francisco de Blas**.

* * *

Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines presented seven talented members of the Manila Youth Symphony in a bid to bring classical music to the children of the Makati Science High School. The program was part of the outreach project of the fellowship and cultural events committee headed by **Thelma Gana**. The ladies were welcomed by **Jejomar Binay** and his wife Makati Mayor **Elenita Binay**.

Student CMM Awards launched

THE STUDENT Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) will recognize student journalists and communicators in various categories: Best Short Film (documentary or narrative), Best Student Publication, Best Literary Publication (magazine or folio), Best News Photo, Best TV Production (documentary or narrative), Best Radio Production (documentary or narrative) and Best Student Public Service Ad.

The panel of judges includes credible and established media practitioners who will judge the entries based on the following criteria: love for God, love for truth, love for life, respect for the environment, and promotion of positive Filipino values.

Entries may now be sent to the CMMA Secretariat, 5/F Dominga Building, Pasong Tamo corner De la Rosa, Makati City. Call 812-1833, 867-4026 or 892-4779.

The deadline for submission of entries is April 30. Winners will be announced on May 5 during the CMMA Media Fair at the SM Megatrade Hall.

This is a project of Henry Sy of SM Prime Holdings, PhilAm Foundation Inc.

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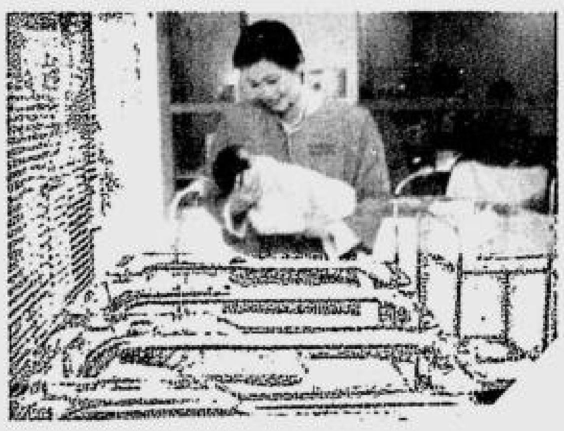

Dr. Johnny T. Go
Chairman, Department of Medicine and Emergency
Dr. Olive C. Go
Chief, Pediatric Pulmonology-Department of Pediatrics
Sto. Tomas University Hospital
International Roamers
Heavy NDD Callers
Texters

Drs. Johnny and Olive Go value keeping strong bonds within the family. "We have been using another network's service for six years when our son, who was in his teens, bugged us to switch to Globe," Johnny tells us. The couple immediately subscribed to Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus' service and provided cellphones for the entire family for a total Globe connection. That was three years ago.

"On my part, it's easier to check on the kids' whereabouts. And they text me, on their own, even if I don't require them to do so. It's really so practical," shares Olive.

For Johnny, who specializes on emergency cases--he depends on his Globe Handyphone to monitor his patients even when out of town. "Globe solved my anxiety problem. Once I had to call my resident by the hour to check on a patient under critical condition while I was in Butuan for a convention," he enthuses.

While their now 15-year-old son had his SIM upgraded to GlobeXplore, the Gos got an additional Plan Subscription. "With Globe, we can now text and call whenever we're abroad for conventions," Olive explains.

"Sometimes, I find myself stuck in traffic, so I'd call my wife just to hear her voice--and that of our three-year-old daughter. Perhaps we should get her one soon," Johnny jests.

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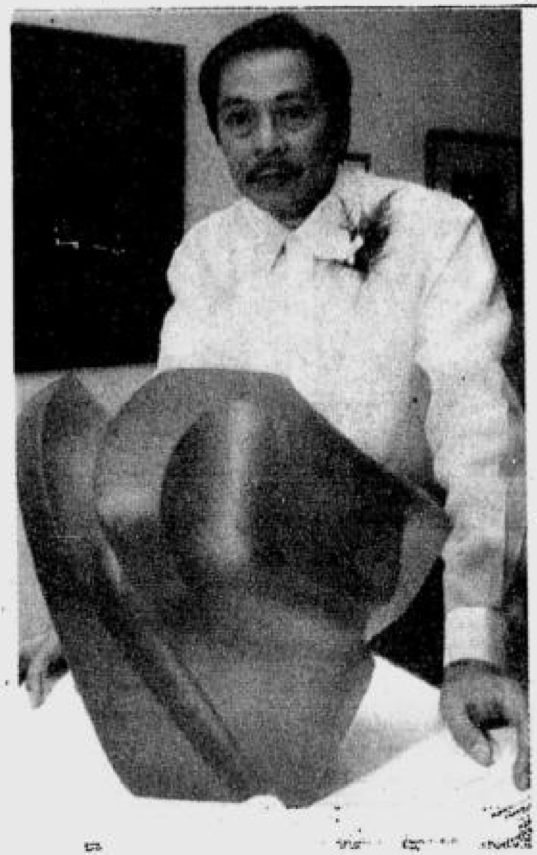

.RAMON Orlina: AAP funds are intact and :earning interest in the bank

The AAP provokes a controversy it does not need when it questions Ramon Orlina's handling of AAP funds during his term

Former AAP head cries foul

By Lito B. Zulueta

LESS than two years after handing over the reins of the Art Association of the Philippines to the new administration, glass sculptor Ramon Orlina finds the AAP a hard habit to break. Make that a bad habit to break.

Orlina recently found that out to his chagrin when he was drawn to a controversy over the funds of the AAP. Last Feb. 21, the AAP president, art writer Reuben Ramas Cañete, circulated a petition addressed to Orlina, urging him "to expedite the research, writing, editing and printing" of the book, "50 Years of the AAP." The letter was written on behalf of "the undersigned members and donors" of the AAP.

Although the letter sounded like a plea, it was really an accusation. For the book project is supposed to be funded by the proceeds from the charity auction of AAP members' works that Christie's handled in 1997. The auction raised some P3 million, which was earmarked for the book, the exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of winning works through the decades of the annual AAP contest, and the construction of the AAP Arts Center on a lot donated by Pura Kalaw Ledesma.

The money is under the care of the Artists Association of the Philippines Foundation, which was established to handle the proceeds from the auction. The foundation's board includes Orlina, former senator Edgardo Angara and former Cultural Center of the Philippines president Baltazar Endriga.

Implicit in the petition was the complaint that nothing had come of the book project. "It has been three years since the successful charity auction has generated P3 million for this project and we anticipate that it is enough time and funding for the book project to be fulfilled," the petition said.

Implicit, too, was the doubt on whether the AAP Foundation existed at all, or if the money was intact.

Doubts

In fact, members of Cañete's board had long doubted the existence of the foundation. One even went so far as to go to the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish its existence. He came out empty-handed. This appeared to have strengthened the board's resolve to question Orlina about the foundation and its money.

Make that Cañete's resolve. On Feb. 21, even before presenting the petition to the AAP board for approval, he went to National Artist Arturo Luz and Ben Cabrera (Bencab) to ask them to sign the petition. It is not known if the two obliged.

The news spread like Indonesian forest fire. Orlina was aghast. He quickly wrote the AAP board that the foundation exists and the money is intact. The AAP Foundation is in fact duly registered under SEC Reg. No. A1998-03286. It turned out that the AAP board member who first checked with the SEC had looked for the *Art* Association of the Philippines Foundation, not the *Artists* Association of the Philippines Foundation Inc., which was the registered name.

Orlina explained that the auction was held to raise money for certain important projects of the AAP, such as a book to record the first 50 years of the AAP. Thus, the money was separated from the operational funds and savings of the AAP and put into commercial papers. Earnings from the papers, Orlina said, went to finance the exhibit "Ginto: 50 Years of the AAP" at the MET in 1998 up to 1999 and other activities.

Orlina told the Inquirer that the delay in the publication of the book was understandable. He

FORMER / p.E3

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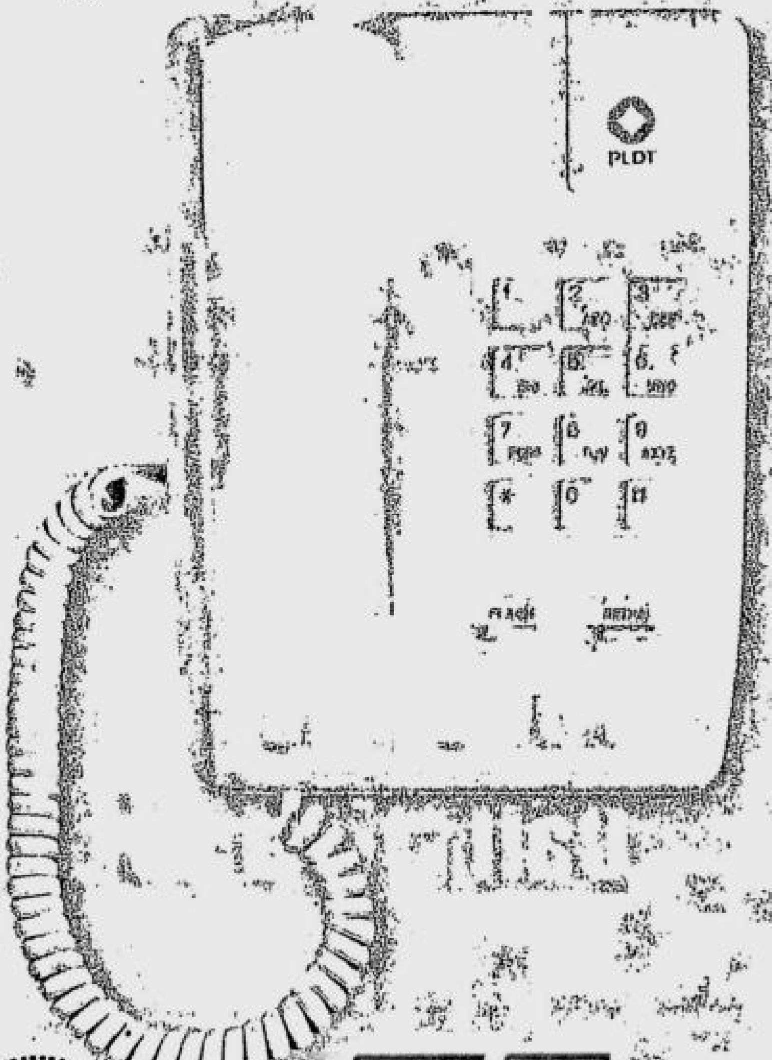

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Zamboanga, world between worlds

BY MOZART A.T. PASTRANO

> An exhibit charts the beginnings and growth of the Spanish colonial power's southernmost outpost in the archipelago

FORT Pilar, the key historical landmark in Zamboanga City, shimmered one recent afternoon as the hues of sunset washed over it with gusto. Against such dramatic light, young people assembled by Ateneo de Zamboanga president Fr. William Kreutz, S.J. tread their way across the ruins to perform long-forgotten dances celebrating the city's cherished traditions and values.

How it all flowed cheerfully—food, drinks and animated conversation, led no less by Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat herself, who cut the ribbon, even as the venerated image of the Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zarragoza glowed in the ambiguous putter of candles nearby.

This was how Zamboanga City, which had been in the frenzy of merry-making for Dia de Zamboanga, welcomed a much-awaited exhibit, "Zamboanga: A World Between Worlds, Cradle of an Emerging Civilization."

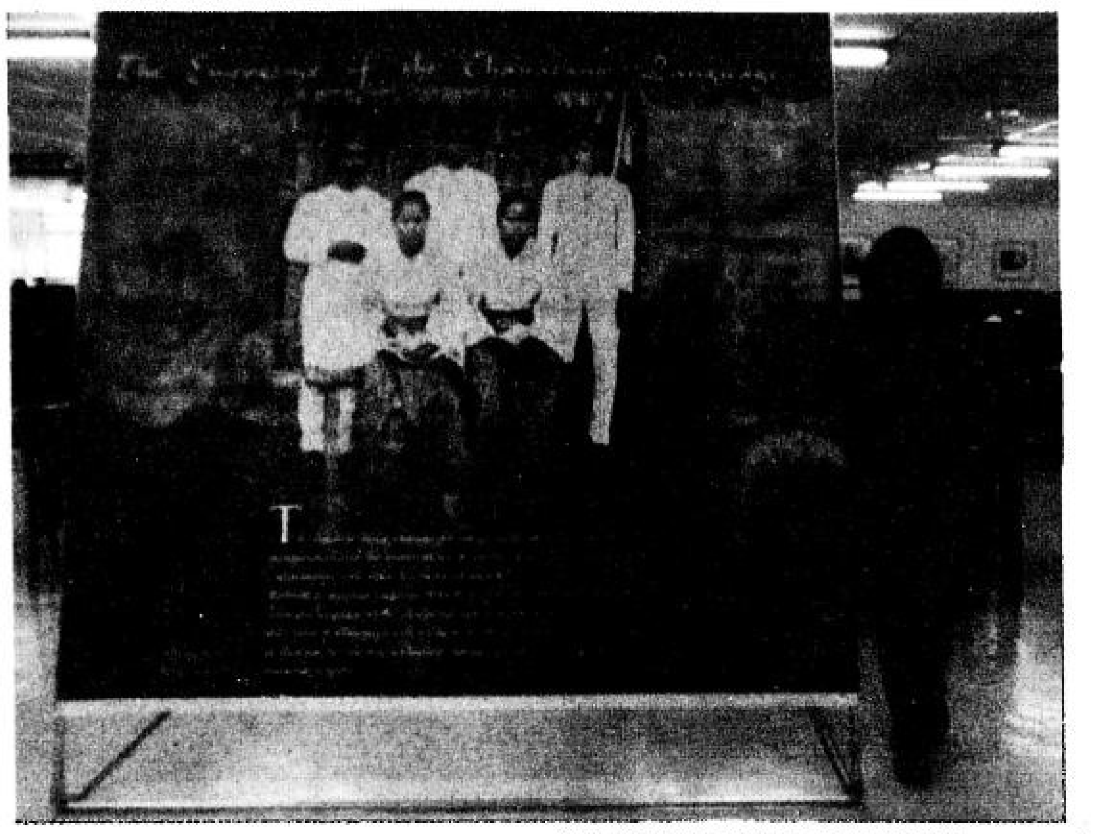
It is an impressive visual evocation of the dynamics of Zamboanga's founding—a project of Zamboanga's very own Dr. Noelle Rodriguez. She chairs the history department at the Ateneo de Manila University, where the exhibit was previewed recently at the Rizal Library.

"Even while I was in school, I found it strange that I knew more about, say, Manila than about my hometown," rues the young and beautiful Zamboangueña. "There was nowhere to turn to if I wanted to know more about the place I grew up in."

She changed all that. After graduating with an A.B. Interdisciplinary Studies degree from the Ateneo de Manila University, she lost no time in pursuing her master's degree in history at the University of the Philippines. Her masteral thesis? The *reduccion* process in Zamboanga—or how settlements created by religious orders in Zamboanga in the 19th century evolved into the towns (and city) of present-day Zamboanga.

Founding

The exhibit at Fort Pilar today goes back further. "Zamboanga: A World Between Worlds" explores the social interactions and interventions that made possible, or even necessary, the forging and founding of Zamboanga—as concept, construct and even consolidated community—from the very beginning.



DR. Noelle Rodriguez and her exhibit
JOAN BONDOC

Which means 1597, when the Spaniards built a palisaded structure called La Caldera along the seacoast of the Zamboanga peninsula. So meticulous and exhaustive is Dr. Rodriguez's research that the exhibit even has a visual rendition of La Caldera, which was unfortunately abandoned in 1599 when the Spanish troops had to rush to Cebu due to rumors of a British attack of the Visayan capital.

This see-sawing of Spanish presence (now you see it, now you don't) along with the intermittent Moro slave-raiding sprees generated much of the dynamics of the establishment of Zamboanga society: slaves from Sulu escaped to the peninsula, where there was febrile interaction between and among the runaway slaves, Spanish troops and friars, indio Christian families, Tausug traders and the first peoples there, the Lutaos and the Subanuns.

The exhibit captures these dynamics in its own dynamic way, too—the impressive research is matched by breathtaking visuals. Dr. Rodriguez teamed up with graphics artist Felix Miguel to translate the research into 11 panels of tarpaulin framed in collapsible aluminum frames—the better for this travelling exhibit to, well, travel.

Hard-to-find photographs, artworks, even postcards from Dr. Rodriguez's personal collection clinch each tarpaulin, which are then peppered with accompanying short, snappy text.

The result? A provocative swing through the social, economic, cultural and political discourses that inform the dynamics of Zamboanga as a psychological reality.

Spanish funding

The research—which took Dr. Rodriguez through the Ateneo archives, particularly the American Historical Collection, and the Filipinas Heritage Library, as well as personal collections of her family and those of fellow Zamboanguenos—was made possible by a grant from a special program called "Toward a common future: A program for cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain and Philippine universities."

Fundacion Santiago, an NGO that provides support for cultural work, has provided funding for the traveling exhibit.

Says Dr. Rodriguez, "This exhibit is just a starting point so that the folks back home, especially grade school and high school students in Zamboanga City, will be familiar with images of Zamboanga and from there be drawn into the discourse of the city's history and present dynamics. From visual appreciation to conceptual challenges—that's what I want to foster through this exhibit."

Dr. Rodriguez's previous exhibits include "La Solidaridad" (1996), "Biak Na Bato" (1997), "Birth of a Nation" (1998; a Spanish edition of this exhibit traveled to Spain) and "Captions of a Captured Time" (1999, Ayala Museum).

She also collaborated with Doreen Fernandez in the much-talked-about historical happening, "World of 1896," which resulted in a collectors' item coffee-table book. Incidentally, it was also designed by Dr. Rodriguez's current exhibit artist Miguel.

E-mail the author at mozpas@yahoo.com

Contest on heritage structure documentation

THE UNITED Architects of the Philippines Center for Filipino Architecture (UAP-CFA), with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, has began a nationwide campaign for the conservation of "*pamanang arkitektura*" or our architectural heritage. In support of this campaign, the UAP-CFA, headed by executive director Cristina V. Turalba, launched the Gawad Pamanang Arkitektura, a nationwide competition on the documentation and conservation of heritage sites and structures. All architects and heritage-structures enthusiasts may participate.

The first component of the competition, the Award for Outstanding Documentation of Architectural Heritage, was launched last October by Turalba at the UAP National Conference for Architects in Baguio City. The contest focuses on quality and comprehensive documentation.

The competition is open to all Filipino citizens. The competition intends to produce documentation for various building typologies such as institutional, commercial, residential, recreational, industrial, landscape and urban design. Spanish colonial religious structures such as churches and convents are not included.

An overall Award for Outstanding Documentation will be given, as well as minor awards for vernacular architecture, Spanish colonial architecture, American colonial architecture, pre-World War II and contemporary architecture (up to 1960). Judging shall be based on the following criteria: compliance with technical requirements; technology of documentation used and introduced; and substance of documentation. There will be cash awards.

Deadline for submission is March 15. Call Lena Lubi at 816-2542, telefax 817-7852, or e-mail uniarki@compass.com.ph and arkitect@info.com.ph.

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Former AAP head cries foul

PWU Dean Rosario Bitanga: Resigned from the AAP board

(From page E1)

explained it had been agreed from early on that the book would be edited by Dr. Nina Capistrano-Baker. But Baker could not focus on the work because she was between jobs and was adjusting to her new job as director of the Ayala Museum.

Moreover, Orlina said he had asked Cañete for a year to concentrate on his work. He explained that as a result of his many years as AAP president, he had to struggle to find time for his own art. So he saw his stepping down from the AAP presidency as a chance for him to focus on his work, particularly last year when he had to prepare for a solo exhibit.

"In fact, I had given myself until the end of February to return to the project. I don't know why they couldn't wait for me. I notified Reuben about my leave."

Orlina added that since turning over power to the new administration, the funds have continued to earn income from the papers at the J.P. Rizal branch of the Union Bank. Upon maturity this month and next month, the papers will amount to P3.4 million. He was quick to add the interest and the principal are intact, as the bank papers will show.

Because Orlina had fully accounted for the money, Cañete immediately apologized. He admitted that he circulated the appeal without consulting or seeking the approval of the AAP Board. "I now realize that my premature and immature actions were gravely detrimental and harmful not only to you personally and the AAP Foundation but also to the AAP," Cañete said. "First and foremost, I had doubted and undermined without any grounds your ability and leadership in pursuing the book project; in addition I committed an anomaly by circulating the appeal letter without the consent and knowledge of my Board. Furthermore, I had placed the association in possible jeopardy by attempting to incite AAP members such as Messrs. Arturo Luz and Bencab who were not fully appraised of the matter to question the integrity of the AAP Foundation."

Eye-opener

Orlina's letter was an eye-opener for the AAP Board. As a result, there was blame-pinning. The finger was pointed particularly at Salvador Convocar, the vice president, who readily admitted he had pressed for the appeal to Orlina, but only because he was not in possession of the facts. But upon reading Orlina's letter, he was the first to demand that the petition be stopped because the former AAP president had fully explained his side. Convocar later resigned, complaining that the members of the board had made him a scapegoat.

Another board member, the sculptress and painter Rosario Bitanga, dean of the Institute of Fine Arts of the Philippine Women's University, also resigned. Bitanga later told Orlina she had disagreed with the board's plans and decisions since the start, including a plan to buy condominium space to house the AAP office.

Orlina is now smarting from the controversy and the damage it may have inflicted on his reputation. He said some members of the AAP board were his board members before and should have cautioned the others in making hasty generalizations. "I can't understand how they could have been misled into thinking there was no foundation and there was no money. All that was required of them was to ask me."

Orlina is particularly disappointed with Cañete. He explained Cañete was a member of the old board and had been receiving files and documents of AAP transactions and activities that he might need for his graduate thesis in art studies.

Orlina could find consolation in his forthright attitude of always coming clean on issues affecting the APP. "I have always been transparent," he said. "In fact, I am like my glass. You can see through me." He could also find consolation in the fact he continues to receive recognition here and abroad. (In fact, on Wednesday, March 14, he will receive the Outstanding Thomasian Alumnus in the Visual Arts award from his alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas.)

Of course, it could be said that transparency does not stop others from insisting on seeing flyspecks and warts in the otherwise gossamer translucence of the truth, even if it has the flawless grace of Orlina's glass sculptures.

Lucky Me!
LUCKY MOMMY
CRISTY CRUZ

Anak na marunong,
swerte ng inang katulong.

"*...squatter ako, katulong lang ang nanay ko*" mula sa valedictory speech ni Nathan Cruz, Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Arts in English Studies sa UP Diliman, bunsong anak ni Aling Cristy Cruz.
Si mommy Cristy ay isang katulong, taga-laba at taga-alaga ng bata.
Sa tiyaga, napagtapos niya ang kanyang mga anak. Di man siya nakapag-high school, ang kanyang mga anak naman ang tumupad ng kanyang pangarap at nagbigay ng swerte sa kanyang buhay.

Lucky Me!
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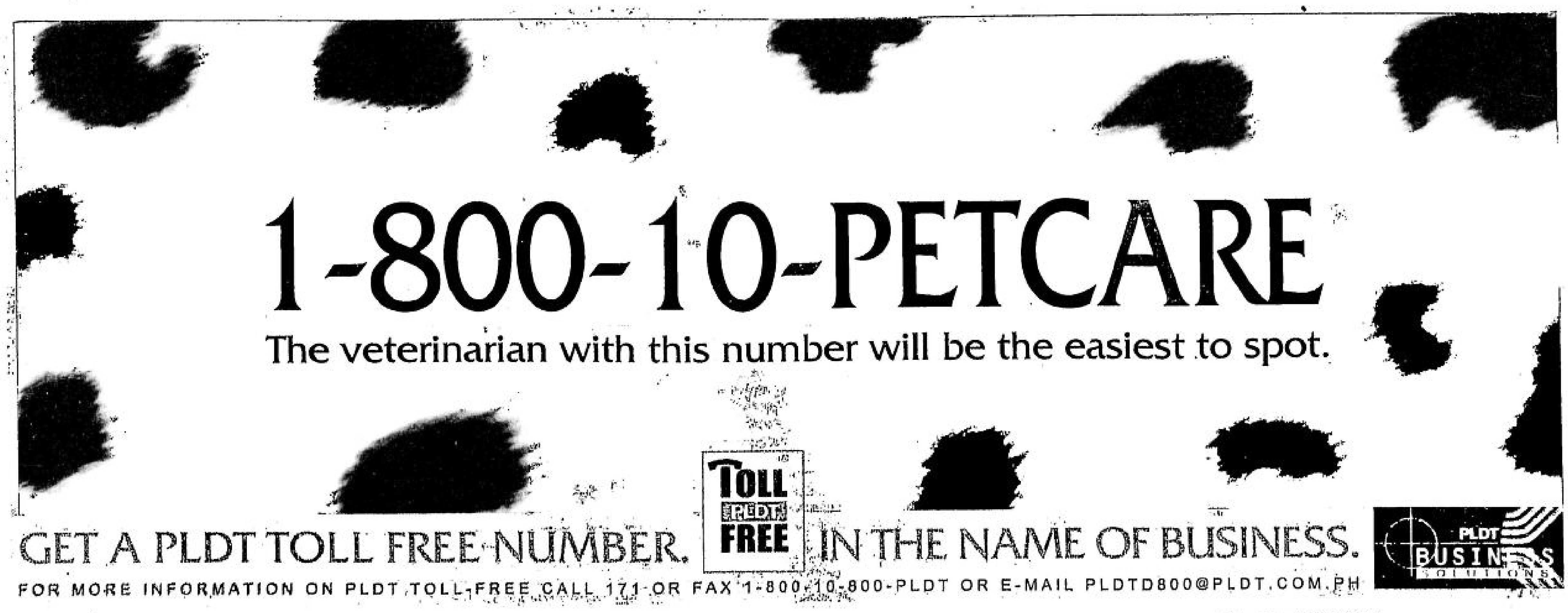

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Ruiz promotes performance art in Japan

VISUAL ARTS

RONALDO RUIZ has been invited to do his performances at the Nippon International Performance Art Festival 2001 until March 15 in Tokyo, Nagoya and Nagano, Japan.

He did several performances here and abroad, including Gampanan '99 Philippine International Performance Art Festival, Australian Perspecta '99 artist in residence in Sydney, Asiatopia 2000 International Performance Art Festival Bangkok, Thailand. He also participated in the Jakarta International Performance Art Festival 2000 in Indonesia and is included in the Asian Performance Artist 2000 (40 Asian artists from 10 countries who are engaged in performance art today) catalogue.

He was one of the major winners in the 1997 and 2000 Philippine Art Award and represented the country in the Asian Art Awards in Singapore. Call 0917-9110044 or e-mail mooncalf_ph@yahoo.com.

SAN PASCUAL AT WEST GALLERY. Popo San Pascual will mount his latest one-man exhibit dubbed "Lifesavers" from March 15-27 at the West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. San Pascual has shaped his series using a palette knife and fingers for the first time. He says he always wants to make his paintings look raw and fresh. Call 752-7028/29.

SANTOS AT BOSTON GALLERY. Jose Santos III opens his exhibit of recent paintings titled "Epeisodion" at Boston Gallery. The title was derived from the word episode, a structural device that is Greek in origin.

The images are derived from direct experiences or appropriated from materials or objects he is familiar with. The exhibit runs until March 31. Call 722-9205.

VISUAL ARTISTS AT CRUCIBLE GALLERY. A show by artists inspired by the aesthetics of the mundane and the ordinary is currently on view at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong. The group exhibit shows graphic works by Randy Aviado, Benjie Torrado Cabrera, Danny Sola and Emet Valente. These recent graphic works range from relief prints mixed with collage, monoprints and the traditional Intaglio prints. The exhibit runs until April 1.

SEVILLA AT PENGUIN GALLERY CAFÉ. Gadjo Cardenas Sevilla presents "SoLoS: A Celebration of Jazz on Canvas" at Penguin Gallery Café. The exhibit features 10 recent works done in action painting style capturing the free rolling and energetic jazz solos. The inspiration of these paintings are the immortal music of big-band swing, be-bop and specifically on the fiery and timeless music of jazz virtuosos John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, Charles Mingus, Louis Armstrong, Stan Getz and Miles Davis. The exhibit is ongoing until April 10.

ROCO AT AUSTRALIA CENTER. Sonia Roco, wife of Education Secretary Raul Roco, and chair of St. Michael's Hospice, will open "The Propitiations to a Wounded Mountain," the first solo exhibit of Sydney-based Australian artist Lynn Brunet on March 12 at the Australia Center, 104 Paseo de Roxas corner Perea St., Makati City.

ROY AT AYALA MUSEUM. Tito Roy mounts his third one-man show dubbed "Recent Works" at the Lobby of the Ayala Museum. The exhibit showcases his latest artwork featuring various subjects done in his trademark impressionistic style. The exhibit runs until March 18. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

REVENTAR AT AYALA MUSEUM. Dan Reventar holds his one-man show at the Ma'I Room of the Ayala Museum. Dubbed "Passing Through," the exhibit features landscapes done in acrylic. The exhibit runs until March 18. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

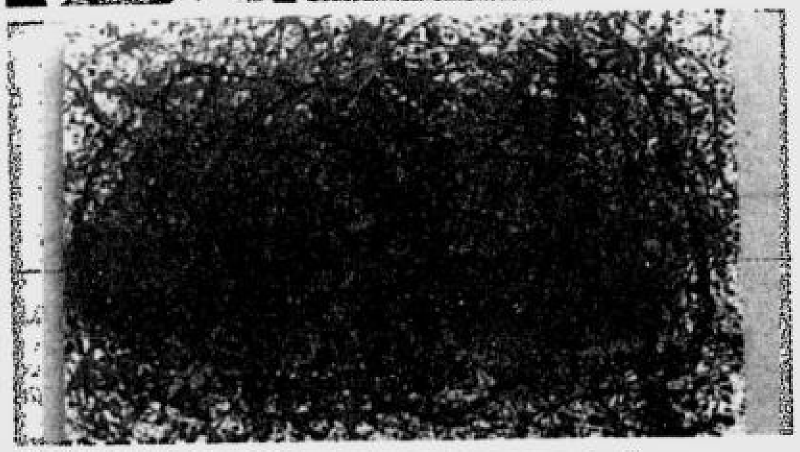
EXHIBIT FOR A CAUSE. The Luntiang Daigdig Artists Group Inc. with Action Kiz, a child development center, is holding its 31st painting exhibit dubbed "The Many Moods of Children." The participating artists include Solano Cruz (founder), Arturo Cuvinar (president), Joseph Clavita, Pablito Buna, Nick Aranda, Ben Andres, Rody Marbella, Justin Santos, Rolly Rosal, Ver Llaban, Ed Bascara, Benn Sabio, Sam Penaso, Edgar Torres, Quintin Estuario, Romeo Lacson, Roehl Acosta, Micas Dionisio, Bernard dela Cruz, Kim Adam, Caroline Lee and Sophia Marie Lee. Renowned watercolorist Jun Martinez is sole guest artist. The show runs until March 24. The exhibit is at the Centre Lobby of Discovery Centre Building, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Part of the proceeds goes to Action Kidz's favorite charity—Migi's Corner Foundation. Call 636-0747.

ELEMENTO: PANGUNAHING UDYOK. (Ikatlong Yugto), a multimedia exhibit by a group of young Filipino artists, musicians and poets in collaboration with Scottish artist Andrew Lorimer, will have its third installment at Surrounded by Water alternative space/gallery. Participating artists include Mohammad Al Rashdi, Herald Corpus, Demosthenes Campos, Alvin Confessor, Jonathan Castro, Kris "hoMeLESsoUI" Deuda, Eugene Jarque, Mary Ann Jimenez, Arvin Javier, Alvin Javier, Andrew Lorimer, Arden Morera, T.J. Ortis, Jenny Orillos, Lirio Salvador, Edward Simon, Mac Valdezco, Charlie Velarde, Bayani Dequito and the Sinematica Art Group composed of Mark de Castro, Eric Galura, Marlon Magbanua, Ryan Songco and Rondi. The exhibit will run until March 21. Surrounded by Water is at 187 A Arle Square, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 724-2027.

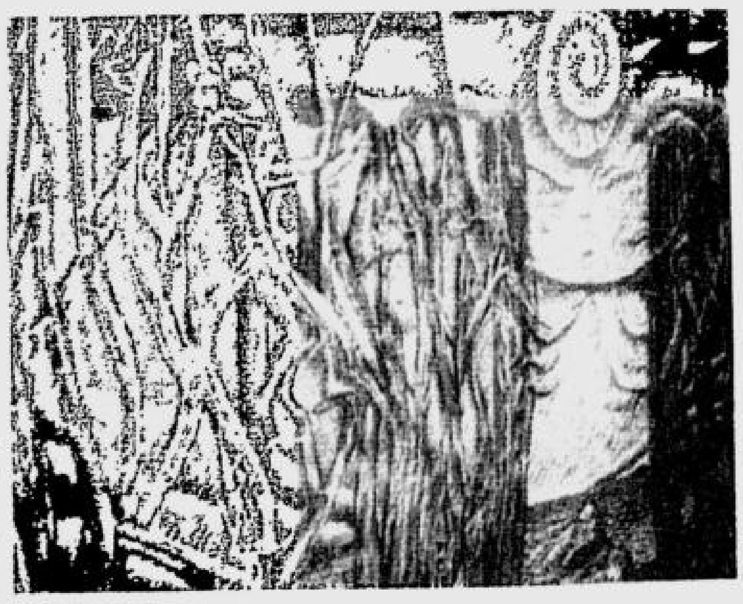
WORKSHOP. The Center for Arts Foundation Inc. is accepting registrants to its Summer Folks 2001—Free Summer Workshops. Courses include Acting/Theater Arts and Voice Lesson. This will be held from April to May 2001. The deadline of submission of application is on April 15. The Center for Arts is at 90C 4th St., New Manila, QC. Registration is ongoing. Call 411-0687 or 727-8347.

AS part of its annual celebration on Women's Month, The Liongoren Gallery presents "Walong Filipina: Sa Ngalan ng Kalikasan 2 (In the Name of Nature)" on March 15. The exhibit is a tribute to all the women who collectively engaged in the struggle to oust former President Joseph Estrada last January. Also a multimedia affirmation of women's participation in the visual arts, the exhibit features paintings, sculptures and installation pieces by Tala Isla-Contreras, June Poticar-Dalisay, Lilia Lao, Cecil de Leon, Ditas Ong, Rhoda Recto, Katti Sta. Ana and Claire Uy. The works revolve around the theme of nature and nurturing, emphasizing the need for appreciating one's environment. The exhibit runs until March 31 at Liongoren Gallery III, New York Street, Cubao, QC. Call 912-4319/4640.

LINO Severino, known as "The Painter Who Flies," will be having an exhibit dubbed "Varied Works" from March 15 to April 16 at Aqua, Lobby Level of The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.



"CONFLUENCE 2001," enamel on canvas by Gadjo Sevilla



Fictionist-artist holds exhibit

JUN Cruz Reyes, one of the country's most versatile writers, will showcase his art in an exhibit of paintings and sculptures and a book launching titled "Papel Walang Papel: Sining Para sa Kapwa," on March 19, 4 p.m., at the Faculty Center, UP Diliman, QC.

The book to be relaunched is the novel "Etsa-Puwera," a Centennial Literary Awards grand-prize winner. The paintings and sculptures will be on display for the first time.

Although better known as a much-awarded fictionist, Jun is also a poet and a filmmaker, and has had several painting exhibitions. All three art forms reinforce the theme of giving voice to the voiceless, providing space for the marginalized.

The exhibit will run from March 19-23 at the Faculty Center, UP Diliman.

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Artist Bella holds weekend art courses

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, who has a fine arts degree from the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, will hold a series of weekend art courses dubbed as the "Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift-giving and Profit." The workshop schedule and description can be accessed at www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html.

Group courses include artistic candle-making with decorative mold-making, decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics, acrylic painting on canvas, flower sculpture, figurine-making and decorative silicon rubber mold-making.

Artistic candle-making will cover production of candle such as figurine, layered, container, gel and floating, with special features such as aromatherapy, scented, slow-burning, dripless, hand painted and insect repellent. The course also covers decorative mold-making techniques.

Decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics will teach how to transform inexpensive materials so that they sparkle with color and elegance. Projects include gemstone perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

Figurine-making covers making transparent, translucent, opaque figurines, jewelry boxes and picture frames out of resin.

Paint nature in acrylic includes the essential and advance techniques in painting on canvas. Students will learn how to handle painting with ease and confidence in approaching their subjects, ranging from landscapes to flowers, underwater and cloudscapes.

Silicon rubber mold-making will teach how to produce decorative mold made out of extremely durable rubber for mass production of artworks such as figurines, candles, jewelry boxes and picture frames.

Flower sculpture includes the creation of non-withering vibrant and colorful flowers in both classic and modern styles, using either oven-fire or air drying clay. Flowers to be produced are orchids, roses, calla lily, daisies, tulips and sunflowers.

Tutorial programs are also offered, which provide the student a special promo package of all the courses, given one-on-one by appointment. Promo is until March 20 only.

Participating students will receive complete and updated world standard information. Visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for work samples or www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html.

Call 890-3778 or 0917-3683212. Lessons on candle making will be held on March 17-18 at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.

Philippine Center in New York to feature Ambassador Gonzales' works

TWENTY-FIVE paintings of Ambassador Rafael A. Gonzales will be exhibited at the Philippine Center in New York City on April 2-13. The art exhibit, with some artworks from the Gonzales family, is sponsored by New York Consul General Linglingay F. Lacanlale, who will be joined by Ambassador Felipe Mabilangan of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations at the opening ceremonies.

Five of Rafael's paintings reflect some of the reasons there was a change in the Presidency of the Philippines. The five paintings were finished early on and during the glorious and patriotic Edsa II upheaval. One of the reasons the former president failed miserably in his governance of our country was due to his extra physical activities.

The subjects selected and the painting style used by the painter are varied. Oil, acrylic, or mixed media were used in relation to the subject painted by Rafael.

In one of his paintings, Rafael presents an unusual two-three dimensional artwork. This painting is all about ecology, the mountains, the sea, the creatures of the sea and colorful corals.

Lucky Me!
LUCKY MOMMY
VICKY YLLANA
Lucky Me!
INSTANT PANCIT CANTON
Lucky Me!
Sa hirap ng buhay, swerte ka sa panganay na sa 'yo ay bubuhay.

Si mommy Vicky Yllana ay isang maybahay ng isang military officer, may limang anak na lalaki. Isang aksidente ang puminsala sa kanyang mister na siyang bumago sa buhay nila. Sa halip na maging pabigat, tumayong Ama ng Tahanan ang panganay niya. Nakipagsapalaran sa showbiz hanggang naging sikat na komedyante—si Anjo Yllana. Anumang kagipitan ng isang ina, ang anak pa rin pala ang magiging swerte niya.

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PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Ballet Manila starts to relax

By Marge C. Enriquez

BALLET Manila's repertoire doesn't give in to such modish theatricalisms as the spoken word (or sounds), multiple-media provisions, dancers wrapping themselves up in plastic, etc. Rather BM's numbers show formal structure, difficult physicality, and naturally, well-trained dancers who move exquisitely through space.

Being obsessed with perfection can have its downside. From a repertoire viewpoint, some of the works can be, uh, intellectually challenged. From a performing viewpoint, the dancers tend to be too self-conscious about being technically correct.

REVIEW

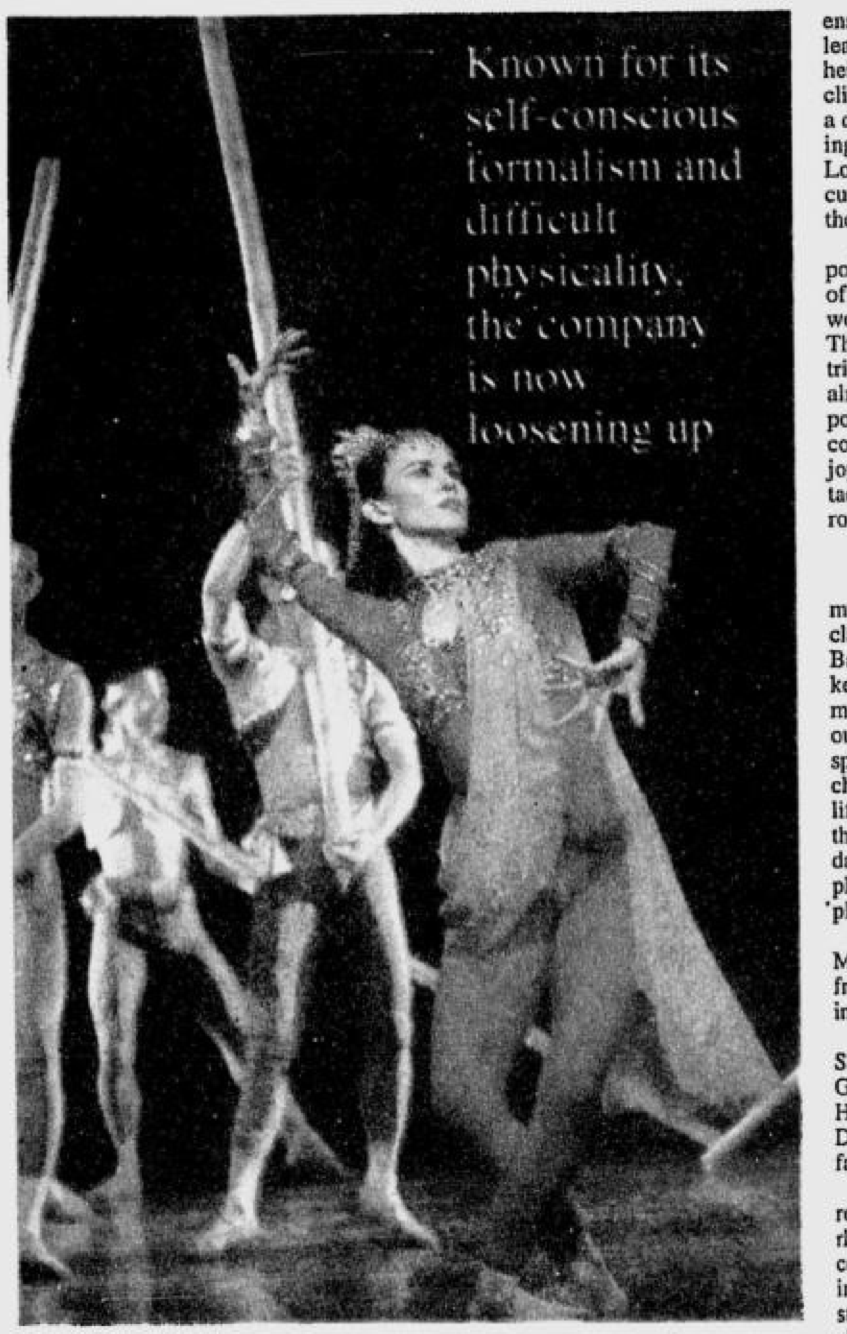
In this last show at the GSIS Theater, however, BM's dancers were beginning to relax and some of its contemporary works reflected fine choreographic craftsmanship. With the modern pieces, they were learning to loosen up, which the audience appeared to enjoy.

Folk dance on pointe

Agnes Locsin's "Sayaw sa Pamlang" was an apt opener. Made for BM's touring repertoire, it was a suite of dances from the South. To anyone who has attended a Bayanihan Dance Workshop or watched its shows, the suite looked like a glossy, theatrical folk dance number, packaged in pointe work and classical lines.

The structure and tempo of the choreography were based on Western precepts. Locsin used movements characteristic of Muslim dances of our folkloric dance groups such as the languid movements, aloof expression, extended arms, the backward lean, flexed wrists and the popular Maranaw walk merely as stylistic motifs.

The audiences that Sunday enjoyed the parts wherein the main dancer was never on the ground as she was on a bamboo pole held up by the male ensemble. They also applauded the tableaux of dancers playing with different heights of leg extensions. The suite climaxed with the *singkil*, traditionally a dance performed by royalty, involving crossing and clapping bamboos. Locsin avoided being literal, and focused on choreographic cannons using the bamboo and quick footwork.



Known for its self-conscious formalism and difficult physicality, the company is now loosening up

MELANIE Motus in the *pangalay* solo from Agnes Locsin's "Sayaw sa Pamlang"

Purists would probably be disappointed in not seeing the counterpoint of the arm movements with the footwork, particular to Muslim dancing. The *pangalay* solo didn't have the intricacy of its Tausug origins. But that's already nitpicking. The martial arts portion was the most Asian in terms of content and flavor. I would have enjoyed this part had the danseurs attacked the movements with athletic ferocity.

Goofy

Ric Culalic's "Ouch!" set to the music of the Beatles, was a goofy neoclassic piece about a love triangle. Like Balanchine's pieces, it was full of broken lines, off-center weight placements, intertwining bodies, legs flying out in high angles and jutting hips and speedy movements. There were lots of cheeky noodling with big jumps, turns, lifts and partnering maneuvers wherein the ballerina wound herself around the danseur's body. It was the engaging playful romp that made this dance a pleasure to watch.

Christopher Mohnani and Melanie Motus flirted with each other. His girlfriend Aileen Gallinera avenged his infidelity by kicking him where it hurt.

The delight of the show was Hazel Sabas-Gower's "Deconstructing Gershwin," set to jazz rhythms by Herbie Hancock, Dubose Heyward and Dave Grusin. This jazz trio has been a favorite of the baby boomers.

This was a work of a mature choreographer. Pulsating to the powerful rhythms, the section introduced dancers forming a human pyramid, moving in mechanistic precision across the stage. The work paid tribute to the classical technique with a veneer that was purposely breached by rebel foray into the break-all-the-conventions contemporary dance.

The double works (partnering) were done smoothly. Maneuvered by a weaker ensemble, these pas de deux would have looked awkward. One song had two boys, lying on the floor, doing a promenade with their partners on top of them. Although that had been seen in some English works, the tempo in this horizontal partnering made it look different. There were gymnastic feats such as a girl doing a somersault towards her partner and ending up on his back.

"Deconstructing Gershwin" is one of the few pieces in BM's repertoire that isn't tiresome. The dancers needed more fine-tuning to interpret the way the choreographer caught the tempi, accents, moods and impulses. A jazzy piece like this should have sharper punctuations and stronger attacks.

Maturity

The only classical number was "Grande Pas Classique," rendered with assurance by Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and her longtime partner, Osias Barroso. A mature performer like Lisa was no longer going for showy tricks, rather correctness in classical style. Her supported multiple pirouettes were clean and centered. She was spinning on her axis, followed by the quick head movement. The series of fish dives across the stage was smooth. Lisa was applauded for some daring pirouettes, with changes in arms and direction of the body, and for her strength in the series of springs on pointe with her leg extended to the side and whipped into a pirouette.

CHRISTOPHER Mohnani and Aileen Gallinera as the lovers in Ric Culalic's "Ouch!"

Barroso's *batteries* (interlacing of the legs) were crisp and bouncy. The pas de deux ended with Barroso's spins and Lisa's famous fouettes or whipped turns with the leg occasionally extended in a perpendicular position.

After watching Paul Vasterling's "Dracula" again, we now understand why this ballet has become popular abroad. The story is simple. Jonathan Harker meets Dracula in Transylvania. He returns to England to be with girlfriend Mina. Dracula goes to England and preys on women like Lucy, Mina's friend. Mina and Jonathan try to find a way to get rid of Dracula, who ends up victimizing Lucy. Jonathan refuses to let the vampire get to her. They go to Dracula's hiding place and kill him with a crucifix.

Czech composer Boliuslav Martinu's music set the eerie mood. The choreography, to me, lacked stunning highlights, and the pas de deux was a bit clichéd. However, Vasterling illustrated each individual character clearly. The work gave dancers the freedom to act out of the role. The simplicity, clarity and logic of Vasterling's piece made ballet accessible to GenTxt.

Since the premiere last year, dancers had become more comfortable with their roles. Mohnani played the sinister but lovelorn vampire.

Comedy, nostalgia and catalepsy

By Cora Llamas

CATCH Philippine Educational Theater Association's "Komedi Club" if you can. This thread of three to five short vignettes a night, a different 20-minute cluster each show, will run at the Raja Sulayman Theater in Fort Santiago up to this weekend. It's actually a laboratory project for Peta's Playwright Development Program, which counts award-winning playwrights such as Rody Vera, Jun Lana, Liza Magtoto and Nic Pichay among its members. Recent critically acclaimed, full-length productions like "Pusang Gala" and "Plaridel" have actually germinated from the writers' lab.

"Flight," the most serious of the lot last Friday; started the show with a simple, short dance in light and shadows capturing a young girl's dreams.

REVIEWS

The capsule version of Liza Magtoto's "Despedida de Soltera" gave the final solution to every harassed thirtysomething lady yuppie forever fending off clan pressure to get married; Flor Salonga's 10-minute reminiscing of past loves and choices is the best explanation there are a lot of single girls today.

Sheila Crisostomo's "Emergency" pitted philandering husband, spurned mistress and loyal wife in a loony hospital. The expected Lorena Bobitt climax, though, was rushed, because the nurses' unmotivated, sudden shifting of sides appeared too much like a deus ex machina.

The last two were the jewels in the crown. In "Kahit na Magtiis," Nic Pichay has a poor, starving and drunken man pimping his not-so-reluctant and not-exactly-pretty wife to the chief executive of the land. They haggle, bitch and commiserate about their woes—and present, finally, a sadly believable picture of why millions launched Erap into power.

An intellectually challenged but honest *balut* vendor stabs to death a prostitute and her yuppie client whom he has caught in the act in a cheap motel. The ghost speaks, triggering many flashbacks, intertwining the relationships of the three players with the vendor's sordid childhood. This psychoanalytic trip, Lalie Bucoy's "Isang Libong Tula Para sa Dibdib ni Dulce," is not about a crime of passion. But the destruction of a little boy's innocence, in a world of unhappy marriages, abusive fathers, and heartless objects of desire.

The comedy doesn't dilute the message. That's the beauty of it. It helps you absorb the shock, and provokes you to think afterwards.

'Our Town'

The American classic, Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," is also about innocence and its passing. But this withering away is gentle, almost unseen onstage. Only the Stage Manager (Jeremy Domingo), who acts as Narrator, tells us about the threats to the pristine, American-as-apple-pie New Grover's. Wars. Death by sickness. At the end, cold, impersonal, mechanized industrialization.

THE CAST of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town"

SOME of the cast and creative staff of the plays in "Komedi Club"

Set in 1903, Wilder's play is a homage to nostalgia. Everybody knows everyone in this little town with a population of 2,000. Each scene is a small portrait of contentment and predictability. Childhood playmates grow up to become marriage partners. The paper boy brings the news on time. The only gossip fodder is the perpetually drunk choirmaster. Emily (Liesl Batucan, alternated by Ana Abad Santos-Bitong) and George (Tonipet Gaba) court each other in the soda shop, sealing their romance with clasped hands, not a kiss.

Anton Juan, directing in Repertory Philippines for the first time, sets the stage in Eternity. It's as if "our town" is placed in some dream world easily opened by our memories, guarded against modern cynicism, the rat race, and cheap betrayal. The bare stage, hosting only movable furniture, removes the limitations of definite space and time. A wash of soft blue light and smoke creates the illusion of heaven at the very first scene.

Juan also involves the viewers by placing some of the action near the aisles. Amid the occasional town debate, the audience is made to feel an intimate connection with the players. We become family, not spectators.

The Repertory Philippines ensemble are at home in this kind of production. Gaba, with his dewy-eyed little boy demeanor, is perfect for the role, and Bitong makes for a believable bratty little sister. Meynard Peñalosa, who usually appears in Dulaang UP, adds his strong stage presençe and booming, well-crafted diction to the cast.

Eternity finally appears, in a manner of speaking, at the last scene, Wilder's unexpected twist. Ironically, it heightens the importance of every minute, every second of life. Mortality and death are realities we have to deal with, even in "Our Town."

'Life is a dream'

It just might be. Prisoner Segismundo (R.J.Leyran), long imprisoned for reasons unknown, wakes up to find himself a prince and heir to the kingdom of Poland. Scared of a prediction that his son would rule like a tyrant, the old ruler (Manuel Aquino) had thrown Segismundo into the tower. But instead of taming the prince's worse tendencies, the imprisonment turns him into a bitter, angry young man.

"Life Is a Dream," William Colford's translation of Pedro de la Barca's play, supposedly focuses on the theme of destiny and free will. Will Segismundo, played with charming roughness by Leyran, escape the fate and become a good ruler? But it also begs the question of morality and accountability. Nobody could fault the young prince for raging at his incarceration. Isn't the old king as much to blame at Segismundo's tyranny?

Warriors and kings duel in "Star Wars" get-up. The jester (Dingdong Rosales) is the neighborhood gay. Top 40 music build up the pace during the transitions. Dramatis Personae's Lito Casaje seems to be reaching out to his mainly student audience.

The pace, too, is very fast, like MTV. In spite of the heavy theme, the events move briskly, the message loud and clear. It should slow down at one point, though. Segismundo's turnaround is just too quick. This crossroads that determines the outcome of the play could have taken its time and solidified the drama.

Peta's "Komedi Club" runs at the Raja Sulayman Theater, Fort Santiago until March 17. Repertory Philippines' "Our Town" runs at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza until March 25. Dramatis Personae's "Life is a Dream" goes on tour this month.

Give these kids' dreams a chance

By Berry P. Marfori

WHEN some children of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) sing onstage this Friday at the Philippine International Convention Center, their appeal to the audience will be particularly poignant.

"The Music of Dreams" musical director Ryan Cayabyab has made sure of that. This advocate for the right of children to fulfill their potentials has chosen as opening number a song he wrote for Centex together with scriptwriter Joey Reyes: "Kung Ako'y Pagbibigyan." The pure, sweet voice of the 7-year-old Centex child chosen for the part will find its mark with these lines: "*Kung kami ay bibigyan ng pansin, kung pagbibigyan ang pangarap, kay layo ng kayang maibalik* (If we were to be given notice, if our dreams were to be fulfilled, we would have so much to give back)."

"The Music of Dreams" is a concert top-billed by Pops Fernandez as host, Regine Velasquez, Lani Mislaucha, Basil Valdez, Jaya, Agot Isidro, Lisa Macuja and Audie Gemora. It is co-produced by Ayala Foundation and ABS-CBN for the benefit of Centex, which is a school for less privileged but exceptionally bright students.

Says Cayabyab who, together with wife Emmy, Gemora and Luna Inocian, conceptualized the show: "Centex is all about developing one's talents and our show is about actualizing potentials." "The Music of Dreams" puts together fresh, young talent with polished and developed artistry. In one suite, Regine performs alongside up-and-coming belters Carol Banawa, Cris Villonco and the Bataoke Kids. Coke Bolipata and Lisa Macuja perform with child violinists and young ballerinas respectively. The original members of Smokey Mountain perform with Kaya, a new group coached by Cayabyab.

Best of all, the show is directed by multi-awarded Johnny Manahan who has chemistry with the musical director. "We work very well together," Cayabyab says. Both anticipate creating a concert to remember with the powerhouse cast and the 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. According to Manahan, the MPO has the power to sweep one away with the emotion and strength of its music.

Cayabyab is among a group of artists who have become Centex advocates. Others keenly batting for the dream to put up more of these schools across the country are: Pops Fernandez, the MPO's Benjie Bautista, Jaya, Audie Gemora, Cris Villonco, photographer Denise Weldon, talent manager Girlie Rodis, scriptwriter Joey Reyes, ABS-CBN special projects director Chit Guerrero.

Centex is managed by Ayala Foundation in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, local governments and corporate sponsors. Carol Atacador, project director, relates that it seeks to provide the highest standards of elementary education to less privileged but exceptionally bright children. The first Centex campus was sponsored by Ayala Land in Tondo and opened in 1998. The second campus is in Bauan, Batangas and is funded by Globe Telecom and Pure Foods Corp.

According to Kit Zobel, Centex volunteer, Centex students have been reaping honors in DECS-administered national exams even if the school has been operating for only three years. "We believe that if we are able to continue providing these children with a superior education and facilities, and support them with the necessary assistance, we can turn them into tomorrow's leaders," she says.

At a recent rehearsal with Cayabyab at an ABS-CBN studio, the children from families headed by construction workers and messengers and who had never been to an orchestra performance in their entire life, gave a glimpse of their promise. They had previously been shown pictures and reading material on the various musical instruments.

The 6- and 7-year-olds stared with wide-eyed wonder at the assembled MPO practicing under the baton of Cayabyab. Uncoached, the moment of great realization occurred: Teacher, that's a French horn… a hobo… a timpani, a harp. "*Ang laki pala ng* harp. *Paano nila iyan inuuwi?*"

Gathered before the piano, the legendary "Mr. C," which is Cayabyab's show-biz honorific name, played the tune of "Kung Ako's Pagbibigyan" for them for the first time. After three or four more times, they were easily carrying the tune: "*Kung kami ay bibigyan ng pansin, kung pagbibigyan ang pangarap, kay layo ng kayang maibalik.*"

They couldn't have said it better.

"The Music of Dreams" is also sponsored by Globe Telecom, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Alcatel Philippines, Assissi Foundation, Century Tuna, Citibank, Coca-Cola, Fiesta Greetings, ING Barrings, K2 Interactive, Landbank, Malayan Insurance Co., McKinsey & Co., Nestle Philippines, Pacific Cement, Petron, Philippine Star, Pilipinas Shell, Punongbayan and Araullo, San Miguel Corp.. Trio Marketing, UK Computer Design and Animation, Unilever, Unionbank and Universal Robina Corp.

Music and arts . . .

(From page E7)

what we have to offer."

Lopez Vito agrees. "My cultural agenda is basically to support cultural endeavors and preserve old homes and old churches. We have to pass ordinances to re-enforce this like the way they did in the cities of Silay and Bacolod."

Here and there

THE POTENTIAL of cable television as a cultural outlet was pointed out by Estrellita Juliano Tamano, head of the Federation of International Cable TV Associations of the Philippines (Ficap) which will have its international cable congress and exhibit on March 22-24 at the Philippine Trade Center. Tamano, along with co-cable congress organizer Cecille Dy, stressed on the new trend called distance learning where students can stay home while learning through cable TV. I just discovered, of course, that concerts get wider audiences through cable television like the last Isabela concert of tenor Gary del Rosario. He was heard by thousands when his concert was replayed on cable after his live concert at the Roman's Ville Hotel where he received his first standing ovation in Northern Luzon.

For inquiries on this coming cable congress, call 833-4908.

* * *

The other pieces in the April 6 concert of the PPO with Cecile Licad have been changed to Verdi's Vespri Siciliani Overture, Chabrier's "España" and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. Licad, who is soloist in Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto, recently got another standing ovation in Annapolis, Virginia in an evening of Debussy, Liszt and Chopin. The standing ovation took place after the first part of the concert, which ended with a Liszt sonata. Her last etudes of the Chopin Op. 25 again merited another ovation. Guess who is one of Licad's new fans? No other than Annie Dutoit, daughter of Argentinean piano superstar Martha Argerich and conductor Charles Dutoit. A Filipino patient who underwent a bypass surgery, which costs more than P500,000, was jolted when the doctor told her, "You don't have to pay me. Just give me two tickets to the coming April 6 concert of Cecile Licad."

* * *

The concert of the PPO with Coke Bolipata as soloist in the Prokofiev concerto will be held tonight at the CCP, not March 8 as previously scheduled. I couldn't make it as I'll attend my daughter Kerima's hearing in Cabagan, Isabela scheduled on March 12-13.

Music and arts as a way of life in Iloilo

(From page E8)

P5,000 per performance in the Visayas in the late 1940s) and the vocal might of Wagnerian soprano Helen Traubel who performed in Negros in the early '50s (I saw a picture of Traubel huddled in a Bacolod airport in 1953).

The last two times I was in Iloilo in the '80s, I feasted on the Manila Symphony Orchestra under Gilopez Kabayao and pianist Corazon Pineda Kabayao doing wonders with the First Liszt Concerto. The last time was when actor Freddie Santos yelled an earth-shaking Bravo! for Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga who sang art songs and arias at the Central Philippine University church.

Yes, the first Filipino tenor of consequence—the first Filipino soloist of the Frankfurt Opera and the Philadelphia Orchestra (the second is Cecile Licad) is an Ilonggo and the first Filipino violinist to make a debut at New York's Carnegie Hall is also an Ilonggo, Gilopez Kabayao. One of the first Filipino pianists to be heard in Europe and to win major prizes in international piano competitions, Germany-based Ma. Luisa Lopez Vito, is an Ilongga. She was last heard at the Manila Metropolitan Theater with the MSO as soloist in a Mozart concerto under Sergio Esmilla Jr. and at the CCP through a Bartok piano concerto with the PPO under Oscar Yatco.

Now, I am face to face with the pianist's brother, former Rep. Rafael Lopez Vito (now running for city mayor), who points out the role played by music as he grew up in Iloilo. "My sister Luisa is the only musician in the family," he says. "She influenced us by showing us that through music, we can make our spirits literally soar. The arts also reinforced our core values. With the arts, we can understand the past because in a sense, Iloilo has a very cultured past. Music and the arts are a way of life here. In fact, fine music along with fine dining is our idea of a good life here."

One of the firsts to galvanize the Erap Resign Movement in Iloilo, councilor Vicente "Benjie" Gengos Jr. is raring to see a concert mounted at the more than 200-year-old Miag-ao church in nearby Miag-ao town. "Culture should make a dramatic comeback in Iloilo and for the arts to thrive, you need a well-managed city free from the dirty clutches of traditional politics. The arts is supposed to purify and in turn, we should also purify the political process. With Edsa II, we should also start clean in this coming elections."

FORMER Iloilo Rep. Rafael Lopez Vito. His pianist sister, Ma. Luisa-Lopez Vito, taught the family how their spirits could soar with music.

VIOLINIST Farida Kabayao, a remarkable Anne Frank

The country was going through another political upheaval leading to Edsa II when Ilonggo theater director Kevin Piamonte was preparing to mount "The Diary of Anne Frank" with violinist-turned-theater actress, Farida Kabayao, playing the title role. The director saw parallels between Anne Frank's time and Erap's unlamented times and why the Filipino should survive.

"Our country in the way we live is no longer stable. But there is reason to go on. We have a life and with this life are our ideals and dreams. Because of them, we have a life worth preserving."

On the night I saw "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Iloilo CAP Auditorium, Kabayao let out her sensitive side as an actress. She is an Asian Anne Frank with a clear grasp of her part, and her portrayal, to say the least, was profoundly moving. But equally commendable was the Peter Van Daan of Dexter Cang who was a perfect foil for the young Kabayao. Cang exuded youthful vulnerability with ease and I couldn't help looking at the Kabayao couple as their daughter figured in a romantic scene with this talented young man. The rest of the cast who did well were Edgar Javison (Mr. Frank), Jon Jainga (Mr. Van Daan), Leanne Claire Marie F. Salas (Margot Frank), Don A. Protasio (Mr. Dussel) and Ulea D. J. Bayani (Mrs. Frank). The horrors of war were emphasized all the more with the multimedia presentation of Robert Rodriguez.

Piamonte pines for an Iloilo City that is more responsive to the arts. "Now it's not difficult to sell a concert and theater tickets," he says. "We are

MUSIC/ p.E6

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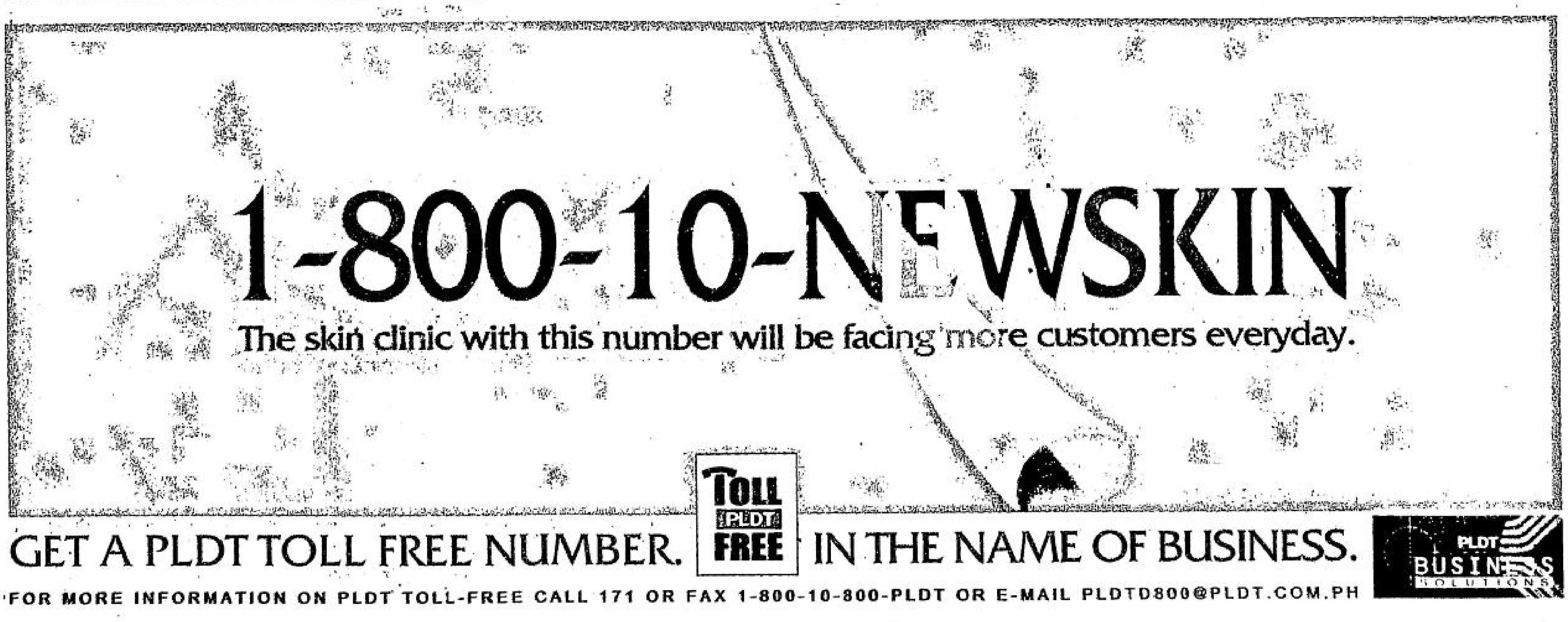

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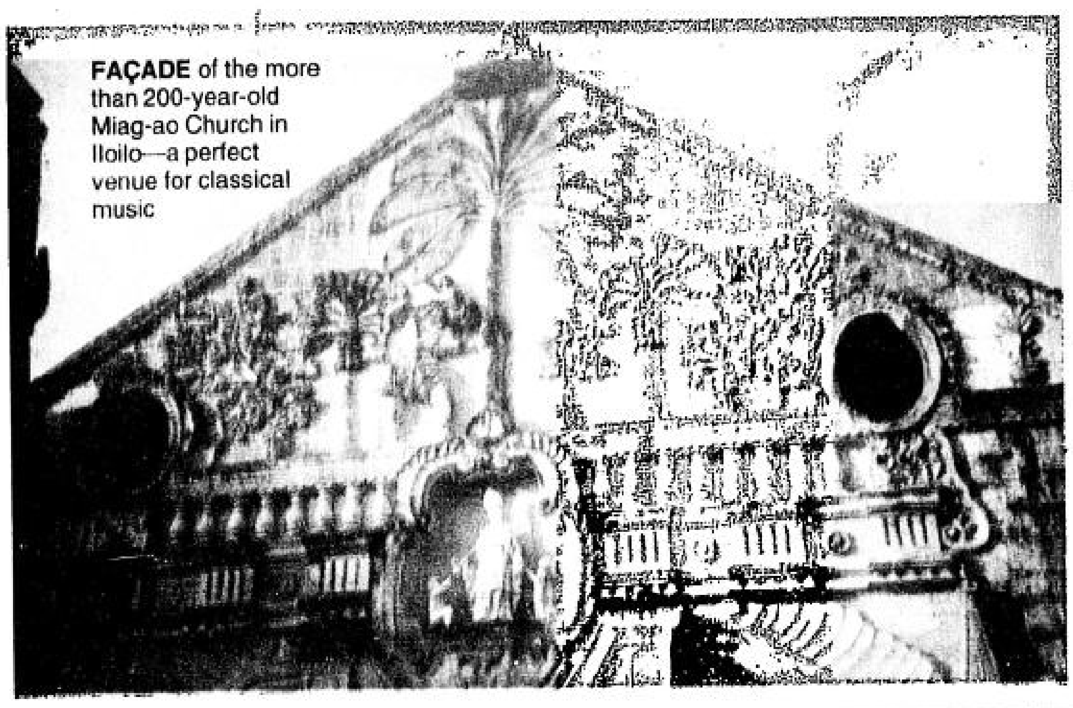
Music and arts as a way of life in Iloilo



FAÇADE of the more than 200-year-old Miag-ao Church in Iloilo—a perfect venue for classical music

By Pablo A. Tariman

ILOILO CITY—This city started as a Spanish settlement in the 1700s during the prolific period of George Frederic Handel ("The Messiah"), Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Josef Haydn.

The port of Iloilo was opened to world trade in 1855, six years after Frederic Chopin died in Paris.

Robust commerce probably led to the rise of the middle upper class, which nurtured classical music. Like it or not, that time in the 1850s must be the decade the so-called mestizo communities of Iloilo (notably in the district of Jaro and Molo) rose to economic prominence.

The first branch of the country's first known bank, the El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II (now Bank of the Philippine Islands), was opened in Iloilo City in 1897, the year Johannes Brahms died and just a year after Rizal died a national martyr. The choice of Iloilo as location of the first outlet in Southeast Asia was deemed logical because of its flourishing contact with world commerce. This city—along with Negros—had prime sugar lands. Nicholas Loney, a British vice consul in Iloilo from 1856 to 1869, became the father of the sugar industry in this part of the Visayas.

It was probably sugar money that allowed Ilonggos and Negrenses to enjoy the artistry of legendary pianist Artur Rubinstein (who was paid

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ILOILO councilor Vicente "Benjie" Gengos Jr. in front of historic Miag-ao Church

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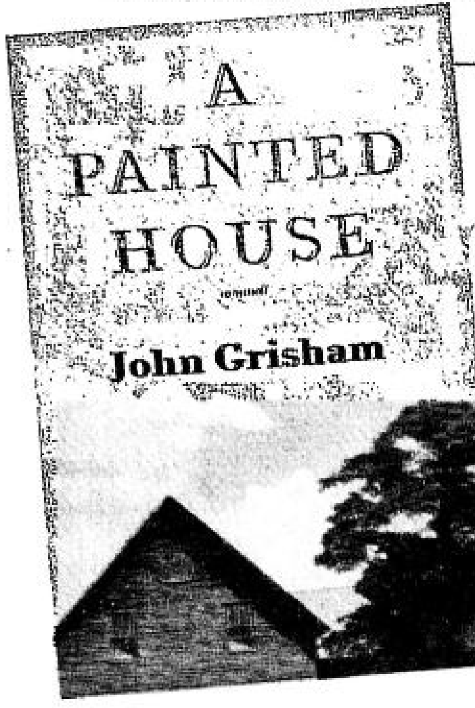

The master of the courtroom thriller tries something completely different—and succeeds—by going home to 'A Painted House'

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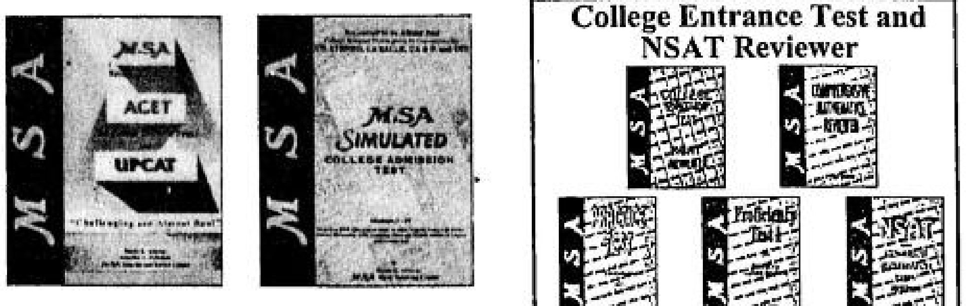

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John Grisham steps gingerly into serious literary territory

A Painted House
By John Grisham
Doubleday, New York, 2001
388 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

AFTER A HOT streak of 11 phenomenal bestsellers, the master of the courtroom thriller decided to go home. After hitting books like "The Firm" and "The Pelican Brief" out of the bookstore ball park, John Grisham returns to his roots and tries something completely new with his newest book, "A Painted House." Readers may have already noticed something was up when Grisham seemed to be tinkering with his delivery in his last two books, the quirky "The Testament" and the darkly comic "The Brethren."

REVIEW

In "A Painted House," Grisham crafts an old-fashioned, quiet autobiographical novel that is slower, simpler and, amazingly, better than anything he's ever done. No lawyers, no courtrooms, no trials—though there is still quite a bit of dirty business involved. Just swaying fields of cotton, a boy's dreams and a changing world. In what can be called his true literary debut, Grisham comes out with few words but a big swing.

Set deep in the heart of Arkansas in 1952, "A Painted House" is told from the viewpoint of 7-year-old Luke Chandler, the third in a line of cotton farmers. Even the very first paragraph clearly shows off the spare, fascinating style and story that Grisham is using for the first time: "The hill people and the Mexicans arrived on the same day. It was a Wednesday, early in September 1952. The Cardinals were five games behind the Dodgers with three weeks to go, and the season looked hopeless. The cotton, however, was waist-high to my father, over my heads, and he and my grandfather could be heard before supper whispering words that were seldom heard. It would be a 'good crop.' " The same thing can be said about this book.

Trials

Dreaming of becoming a member of the St. Louis Cardinals, Luke deals with the trials of growing up in a household that has been the same since he was born. His father, grandfather (the vivid and taciturn Pappy) and grandmother (the eccentric but amusing Gran) seem to believe things would go on the same way forever. But Luke's mother dreams of a different life, of living in a painted house. For the meantime, Luke picks cotton in the hopes of buying a flashy Cardinals jacket to wear to school, plays with his friends in town, eats hearty meals by Gran, and waits with bated breath for his Uncle Ricky to come home from the war in Korea. All of this happens within the comfortably familiar claustrophobia of rural life, all that Luke has ever known. But that's all going to change.

A change in the weather brings events tumbling one after the other. Grisham masterfully hints at them as well: "My father grunted his agreement. The men had been quieter than usual during the game. The storms and cool weather had struck them like an illness. The seasons were changing, yet nearly one-third of the cotton was still out there. We'd had near perfect weather for seven months; surely it was time for a change." Soon, Luke's world is shaken by everything from the arrival of the carnival, the beginnings of love and even a covert death and a hush-hush birth, all told with brevity and lucidity by Grisham.

Heart and voice

Grisham captures perfectly the heart and voice of the confused but good-hearted Luke, expressing everything from his growing fascination with the mysterious older girl Tally to the plight of his idols, the Cardinals, whose games his family listens to religiously on the radio. One can just imagine the plaintive resignation in his voice when the Cardinals fall by the wayside and he says: "For the first time in my life, baseball broke my heart."

Furthermore, Grisham illustrates with confidence the rhythm and eccentricities of rural life, from the charming (the painting of their house), to the funny (Gran's homegrown remedies) to the bizarre (the one-eyed man with a monkey). But everything seems so real and compelling. What he really captures is the change in the country itself as the '50s move on. As Luke grows up, so does everything around him, such as his realization upon watching his first base

JOHN/ p.F2

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This is the forest primeval

The Last Great Forest
By José Lorenzo Tan
Bookmark, 2000
173 pages

An environmental book raises concern about the last rainforest in the Philippines—the Sierra Madre

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

REVIEW

THIS is a book blurb that's unsettling in the coldness and hardness of its facts:

"In 1900, the Philippines boasted some of the richest rainforests in the world. Seventy percent of the total land area of these islands was blanketed in forest covering of 21-million hectares.

"After 100 years, the forest cover has been reduced to 18.3 percent of total land area, covering barely 5.5-million hectares. Most of this is secondary forest. Barely 800,000 hectares is primary old-growth forest...

"The Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, spanning only 360,000 hectares, is the last great rainforest of the Philippines. It is besieged."

Thus begins José Ma. Lorenzo Tan's "The Last Great Forest," a handsomely designed book lavished with photographs and illustrations on beige, acid-free, recycled paper. Informative captions draw the reader at once.

In a clean, clear prose that verges between the journalistic and the literary, Tan proceeds to record the decimation of the great Philippine rainforest, the slow annihilation of flora and fauna, the dislocation of indigenous peoples.

In his introduction, he notes that nearly half of the country's forest covering had vanished by the mid-'60s, exacerbated by serious deforestation during the Marcos years, when the administration issued thousands of permits for intensive commercial logging. At one time, forests were decimated at "an astonishing rate of 300,000 hectares per year."

Last great hope

The degradation of the rainforest results in systematic extinction of species; massive displacement of cultural communities and the vanishing of their cultures; and urban blight due to migration. Closer to us, the destruction of the watersheds results in the degradation of lowland ecosystems: extensive flooding, seasonal drought, soil erosion, river and reef siltation, and the attendant evils to property and life.

One last great hope lies in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park in Isabela, bound by Dikatayan River to the north, Disabungan River to the south, Cagayan Valley to the west and Pacific Ocean to the east. Being a natural park ("a relatively large area not materially altered by human activity"), it was proclaimed a protected area in 1997 under the National Integrated Protected Area System law.

At 359,5000 hectares, this mother of all mountains is now the largest protected area in the country, representing "close to 10 percent of the country's remaining primary forest and up to ¼ of its undisturbed lowland rainforest."

With 12 major habitat types—including lowland evergreen dipterocarp rainforest, lower montane and mossy forest, forest over limestone substrate, ultrabasic forest, beach forest, estuaries, seagrass beds, coral reefs—it is home to 1,300 indigenous people, the Dumagat.

Threatened species

One of the world's 221 key sites for conservation of biodiversity, the Northern Sierra Madre is a habitat for 60 percent of all plant species in the country (1,500 species of vascular plants, 50 of which are endemic to the area and 100 endemic to the Philippines).

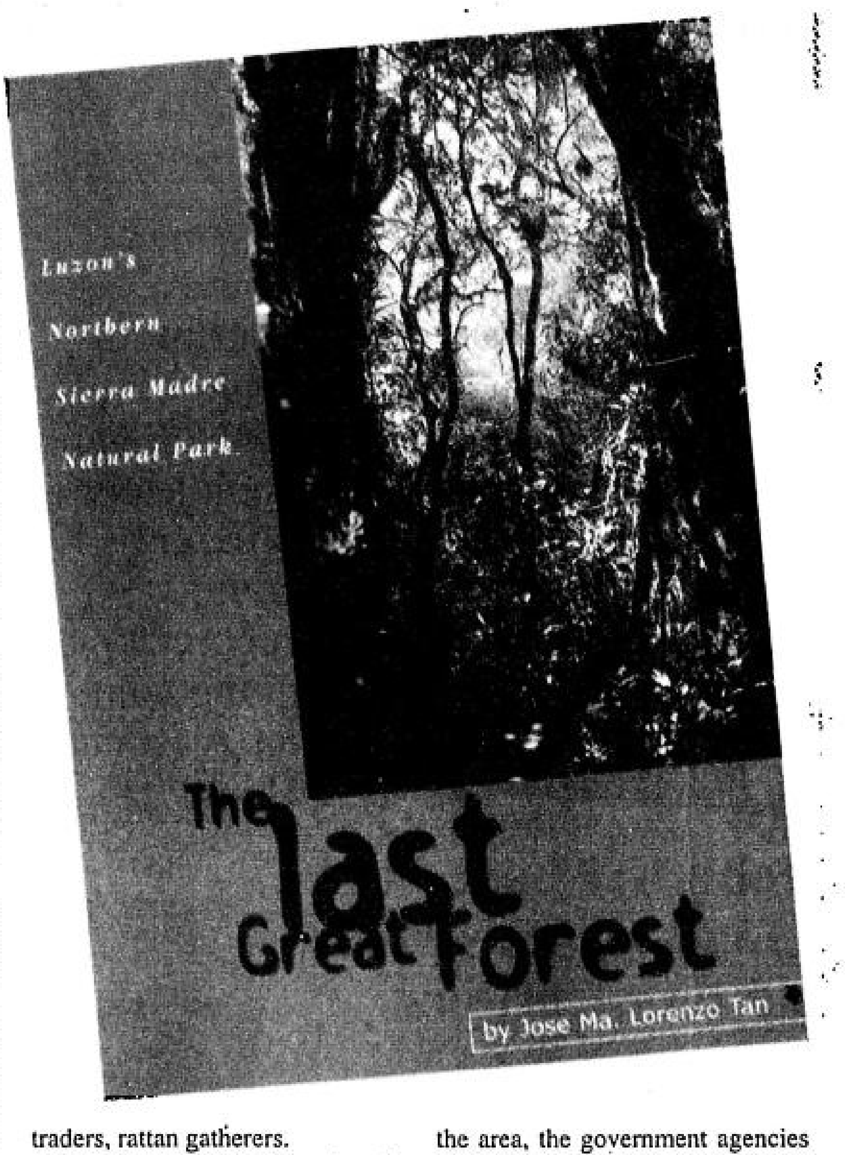
It supports 70 globally threatened and near-threatened wildlife species (13 species of mammals, 46 of birds, seven of reptiles or amphibians, four of shellfish, including the critically endangered Philippine Eagle and the equally endangered Golden-Crowned Flying Fox, the world's largest flying mammal). Notes Tan: "This is the highest known concentration of globally threatened species of any single area in Asia."

He details this by noting that 263 species of birds have been recorded in the area, or nearly 80 percent of Luzon's resident bird species, 87 percent of which are endemic to the Philippines—making the park "one of the most important areas in all Asia for the conservation of threatened species of birds."

But human greed has a way of circumventing the law. Not the Dumagats and the migrants, because they get only what they need to live by.

It is the nonresidents who extract resources in the area more aggressively, using nonsustainable methods and caring little about resource depletion. These are the illegal logging operators, *kaingineros*, hunters, miners, commercial fishermen, shell collectors, lobster traders, rattan gatherers.

The book proceeds to draw a worst-case scenario, and list the infrastructure and social services in the area, the government agencies and NGOs managing the place, and things that must be done. The future is now in your hand.



Women authors launch new titles on Women's Month

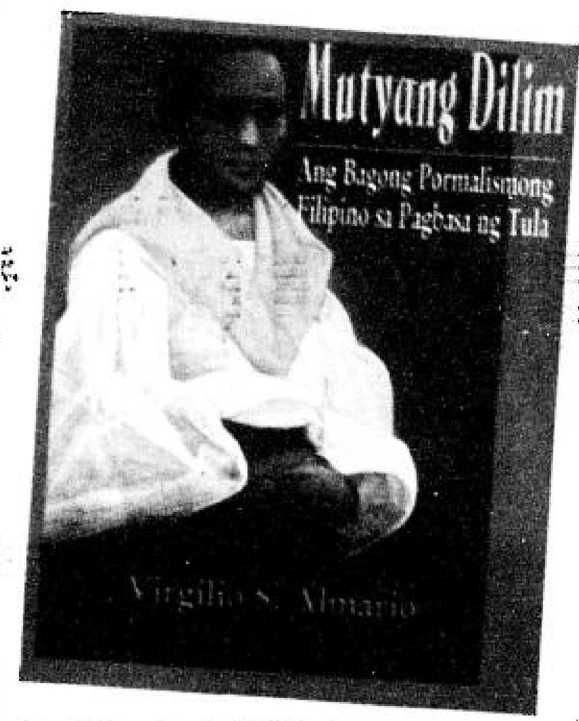
ANVIL Publishing Inc. celebrates Women's Month with the release of new books by women on literature and on personal well-being. The first book, a collection of poems by noted poet and journalist Marra Lanot, is titled "Witch's Dance" and will be launched anew on March 16, 3:30 p.m., with the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings at the 2/F Ateneo de Manila Rizal Library, Katipunan, QC.

On March 17, two books by psychologist/columnist Dr. Margarita G. Homes titled "Babaeng Palaban" and "Lalaking Barako" will be launch at 6 p.m. at PowerBooks on Pasay Road, Makati City.

Lanot's "Witch's Dance" is a collection of poems in three languages: English, Filipino and Spanish. In this new collection, pieces like "Rendezvous," "Mental Telepathy," "Leaves," "Nawawala Kong Tadyang," "Sa Lilim ng Bulkan," "Mahal," "Cantar Al Hombre" reveal fresh and remarkable uses of language and imagery.

Lanot has authored several poetry and essay collections and is presently a resident fellow at the UP Diliman.

Dr. Holmes regales her readers anew with her down-to-earth and frank advice on sex with her latest books. Translated from an earlier bestseller "Bad, Bold and Brazen," Dr. Holmes reaches out to the Filipino language readers and gives intelligent and practical advice on issues like premarital sex, date sex, virginity and premature ejaculation, among others. Dr. Holmes writes a thrice-weekly column for Abante and Abante Tonite, a weekly column for Cosmopolitan Philippines Magazine and hosts a weekly radio show "The Naked Truth with Dr. Holmes" at dwIZ.



Almario's new book of literary essays

LITERARY critic Virgilio S. Almario has a new book, "Mutyang Dilim: Ang Bagong Pormalismong Filipino sa Pagbasa ng Tula."

"Mutyang Dilim" is a collection of Almario's latest essays about the poems of major 20th-century Filipino poets like Jose Corazon de Jesus, Lope K. Santos, Benigno Ramos, Alejandro G. Abadilla and Rolando S. Tinio. Each essay illustrates the employment of certain traditional elements, both native and naturalized, from the age of Balagtas as well as the effects of encounters with contemporary experiences and modernist expressions.

With cover and book design by Mike L. Bigornia, "Mutyang Dilim" features the painting "Mysterious Woman" of Bencab on its cover.

"Mutyang Dilim" is the second offering of the Talingdao Publishing House. Call Imelda Estrelles at 426-6001 local 5320.

Why settle for just a piece?

Recommended readings

NATIONAL Bookstore's top picks for March include:

"Tropical Living" by Elizabeth Reyes—full of remarkable photographs of contemporary houses in the Philippines.

"Face Forward" by Kevyn Aucoin—an international bestseller that showcases amazing makeup transformations of famous stars like Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone, Gwyneth Paltrow and Winona Ryder, to name a few. With easy to follow step-by-step instructions and illustrations, this book is a great beauty guide for anyone who wants to learn how to achieve a variety of looks.

"Freeing the Soul from Fear" by Robert Sardello—a helpful read for those who want to conquer their fears. This book has new and practical strategies that encourage readers to overcome fears like anxiety, confusion and insecurities.

"Special Forces" by Tom Clancy—the popular author takes the readers behind the scenes in this rare look at the Army's Special Forces groups. Follow the covert operations and adventures of the people on whom America's national security depend.

"The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas Stanley—this best-selling book gives you a look into the lives of America's millionaires. Learn not only how millionaires wine and dine, but also how you can learn the secret of multiplying your net worth.

"Keeping God in the Small Stuff" by Bruce and Stan—an inspiring book that draws readers closer to God, with moving day-by-day devotions.

"Flowers of Baguio" by Reynaldo Gamboa and Vicente Roman S. Santos—showcases the splendid flowers Baguio and Benguet are famous for. It also features photos from Baguio's famous Flower Festival.

Those who like mysteries and thrillers will enjoy these hot picks: "The Lion's Game" by Nelson Demille, "Personal Injuries" by Scott Turow and "Roses are Red" by James Patterson.

The hot picks list also includes the romantic novel "The Rescue" by Nicholas Sparks and "A Painted House" by John Grisham.

For those who want empowerment in all aspects of their lives, there's the "Power Series Books" by James Lee Valentino. Whether it be the "Power of Choice," "Power of Life," "Power of Dreams," "Power of Goals," "Power of Actions," "Power of Self-talk," "Power of Attitude," "Power of Mind," "Power of Success" or "Power of Wealth," these books will motivate you to make the most of your life.

"Jewels of the Mind" by Dero Pedero is also an inspirational read that will help make you aware of some of life's most fundamental principles. The author shares thought-provoking ideas, proven techniques, secret formulas and powerful affirmations that can guide you toward a life of success, prosperity and fulfillment.

Anyone who loves to cook or wants to learn how will find delicious recipes in the "Cookbook Series." For pasta lovers, "Great Pasta Sauces" has over 70 recipes for traditional and modern pasta sauces. For those who love oven-baked goodies, there are "Muffins and Quick Breads" and "Fabulous Cookies." Other books include "Simply Desserts," "The Japanese Kitchen," "Simply Vegetarian" and "Soups and Starters."

Kids can enjoy "Bible Bedtime Stories" with colorful illustrations by Deborah Homer, "The Birth of Jesus" and "Bible Stories for Bedtime" and get to know their favorite Bible characters with the simple and memorable texts of each book.

John Grisham . . .

(From page F1)

ball game on television: "We pulled our empty trailer back to the farm, and I picked cotton until quitting time. During supper the adults have me the floor. I talked nonstop about the game and the commercials and everything I'd seen on Pop and Pearl's television. Modern America was slowly invading rural Arkansas."

The invasion leads to some bewildering changes for Luke Chandler, and the reader will cling to every page when the changes happen. "A Painted House" is a heart-breaking, charming and affecting novel with all the unbridled power of memory and the storytelling skills of John Grisham. One suspects that this might just be the first of several sentimental Luke Chandler novels for Grisham, but one also hopes that he would not abandon the nail-biting suspense and deceptive legal-wrangling that has become the trademark of his massively popular courtroom thrillers. In the meantime, the all-around author dreams of home with the tasteful, powerful "A Painted House"—hitting a homerun of a book in the process.

Available in hardcover at National Bookstore and PowerBooks

Renato Constantino biography

CONSTANTINO

"RENATO Constantino, A Life Revisited," a biography of the late columnist, historian and professor, will be launched on March 17, 5 p.m., at the Ylang-Ylang Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan.

Constantino's biographer, Dr. Rosalinda Pineda Ofreneo, has written a book that is both an intellectual biography of Constantino, the renowned nationalist and social critic, and the private, more engaging Renato behind the public persona. Publisher of the book is the Foundation for Nationalist Studies.

Ofreneo is the author of several books, among them "The Manipulated Press—A History of Philippine Journalism Since 1945," "The Philippines—Debt and Poverty" and "Tinig at Kapangyarihan—Mga Kuwentong Buhay ng Kababaihang Manggagawa sa Bahay." She is a faculty member of the Women and Development Program, College of Social Work and Community Development, UP Diliman.

New My Special Valentine romances

BOOKWARE Publishing Corp. has announced the release of a new set of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks written by today's exciting breed of young writers.

Try one or all of the following titles: "Hanggang Kailan Kita Iibigin?," "Sa Muling Pagtibok ng Puso," "Turuan Mo Akong Magmahal," "I'll Never Let You Go," "Bulag Man Ang Pag-ibig," "Rescue Me," "Maramot ang Pag-ibig," "Ikaw Pala ang Mahal," "Hindi Magbabago," "How Do I Live Without You," "Till Death Do Us Part" and "I Want You Back."

MSV titles are available in major bookstores.

New inspirational book by Fr. Orbos

FR. Jerry Orbos, SVD launched his second book, "Shared Moments" (a collection of his experiences, anecdotes, reflections and stories through the years), on Dec. 8, with a Mass at Christ the King Seminary Chapel, QC. His first book, "Moments," has touched the hearts of many people with its simple but profound message of finding God in very ordinary moments of daily life. The book is available at National Bookstore, Christ the King Seminary (tel. 721-7457, 414-7044) and Catholic Trade Bookstore.

Eugenia Apostol in UST student rites

APOSTOL

LEGENDARY publisher Eugenia Duran-Apostol, the founder of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and publisher of Pinoy Times, will deliver the inspirational message during the 2001 Student Recognition Day of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.

Apostol is a graduate of Litt.B. Journalism of the old UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, forerunner of today's Faculty of Arts and Letters. She has earned praise for her courageous journalism and visionary publishing.

The Arts and Letters Student Awards gives recognition in five fields: academic excellence, thesis or research, extension or community service, special events and external performance.

The thesis awards are highly anticipated since UST has renewed its focus on its research mission. The award will go to the best thesis in the 10 majors offered in the Faculty: Asian Studies, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Economics, Journalism, Legal Management, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology.

Established in 1896, the Faculty of Arts and Letters is the country's oldest college for the humanities and the social sciences. Its Literature and Philosophy programs have been named Centers of Excellence by the Commission on Higher Education.

Ateneo to honor seniors, Cordero-Fernando

CORDERO-FERNANDO

GARCIA

ATENEO'S Dean of the School of Humanities, Dr. Leovino Ma. Garcia, will honor the outstanding graduating student artists during the 8th Dean's Awards for the Arts on March 14. Garcia will also confer a special award on artist Gilda Cordero-Fernando for her sizable contributions to the humanities.

The yearly Dean's Awards for the Arts seek to recognize the talented artists among college seniors. Garcia will present Cordero-Fernando with an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities that recognizes the insightful spirit that informs her work as one of the finest exemplars of the short story form in English and her vibrant leadership in culture through her publishing and theater production.

To receive Dean's Awards this year are: Ramon Marcelino Abaya (Music), Leonard Mycal P. Amistoso (Music), Joseph Patrick Arevalo (Fiction), Michael Christopher P. Costello (Visual Arts), Carlo Gabriel Eustaquio (Visual Arts), Joseph Roco Fabul (Screen Arts), Anna Camille F. Faylona (Photography), Enrique Henares (Fiction), Alwynn C. Javier (Poetry), Ana Maria Katigbak (Poetry), Alnair Langkay (Graphic Design), Alfred A. Mendoza (Photography), Miguel N. Nacianceno (Photography), Ryan Stephen Uy (Theater) and Moises Marion Zee (Screen Arts).

Additionally, the Raul Locsin Award for Student Journalism 2001 will be presented to Leah Mae S. Damazo and Margarita D. de Pano. The award is sponsored by the Communication Department and is named after the founder of BusinessWorld.

This year's Committee for the Dean's Awards for the Arts is composed of Dr. Ricardo Abad, chair; Dr. Eduardo Calasanz, Jonathan Chua, Ruel S. de Vera, Antonio G. Lambino III, D.M. Reyes, and Dr. Benilda S. Santos, members.

The awards ceremony will be at 5 p.m. at the Escaler Hall, Science Education Complex, Ateneo campus, Loyola Heights, QC.

Six get 'intellectual' fellowships

JESUIT Fr. Rene Pio B. Javellana

CRISTINA Montiel

MOZART A.T. Pastrano

SIX Filipino achievers will be named as first recipients of the Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowships in solemn, invitational ceremonies at the Ateneo de Manila University this afternoon. The senior fellows are filmmaker Nick Deocampo, cultural scholar Jesuit Fr. Rene Pio B. Javellana and political psychologist Cristina Montiel. The junior fellows are writer Mozart A.T. Pastrano, public servant Alexander C. Gregorio Jr. and art studies professor Cecilia dela Paz.

Deocampo is cited for the way he "blends the filmmaker's art with the scholar's passion in investigating how Asian cinema constructs allegories of nationhood." Father Javellana is handpicked for "promoting an ethos of heritage conservation in the Philippines and the rest of the region." Montiel is praised for her lifelong work as "social psychologist, political activist and gentle agent for the distribution of political authority in the Asian region."

Among the junior fellows, Pastrano is noted for "employing the power of the written word in articulating the concerns of those far from the corridors of power." Dela Paz is acclaimed as an "art historian, cultural worker and explorer of the aesthetics and politics of identity construction in Asian art history." Gregorio is hailed for threading through legal and cultural frameworks in espousing architectural heritage conservation.

CECILIA dela Paz

UST awards outstanding faculty researchers

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas recognized its outstanding faculty researchers during formal rites last Feb. 28 at the UST Rector's Hall.

The Rector of the University of Santo Tomas, Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P., awarded the Gold and Silver Series Awards to faculty members who published research papers in refereed professional journals and mentored junior researchers during the past two years. Special awards were also given to faculty researchers with international publications.

The Gold and Silver Awards are given every two years as an acknowledgment of the contribution of the faculty members to the realization of the research mission of Asia's oldest university and the world's largest Catholic university.

In his message, Father Lana lauded the efforts and achievements of the honorees and urged the rest of the Thomasian community to follow the examples of these "chosen few."

The awardees for the Gold Series were Alicia M.Aguinaldo, Roberto T. Andres, Gloria C. Bernas, Christina A. Binag, Maribel G. Nonato and Fortunato Sevilla III of the College of Science; Remedios F. Coronel, Alberto Daysog Jr., the late Emmanuel Edwin R. Dy Jr., Reynaldo M. Javate, Leilani Mercado Asis, Sandra T.G.V. Navarra, Raymond L. Rosales and Jose D. Sollano Jr. of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery; and Mafel C. Ysrael of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

For the Silver Series, the awardees were Grecebio D. Alejandro, Arthur A. Alipao, Jose H. Bergantin Jr., Gil A. Cauyan, Rosie S. Madulid and Mary Anne G. Santos of the College of Science; Clarence M. Batan, Armando F. de Jesus, Marilu R. Madrunio and Cynthia Luz P. Rivera of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; Marietta C. Baysa and Teresita C. Meer of the Faculty of Education; Maria Natalia R. Dimaano and Edna C. Quinto of the Faculty of Engineering; Minerva P. Calimag, Mary N. Chua and Ma. Honolina S. Gomez of the Faculty of Medicine; Jovencio G. Apostol, Ninia I. Calaca and Emily B. Tan of the Faculty of Pharmacy; and Mecheline Zonia I. Manalastas and Esmeralda F. Sanchez of the Institute of Religion,

points of view

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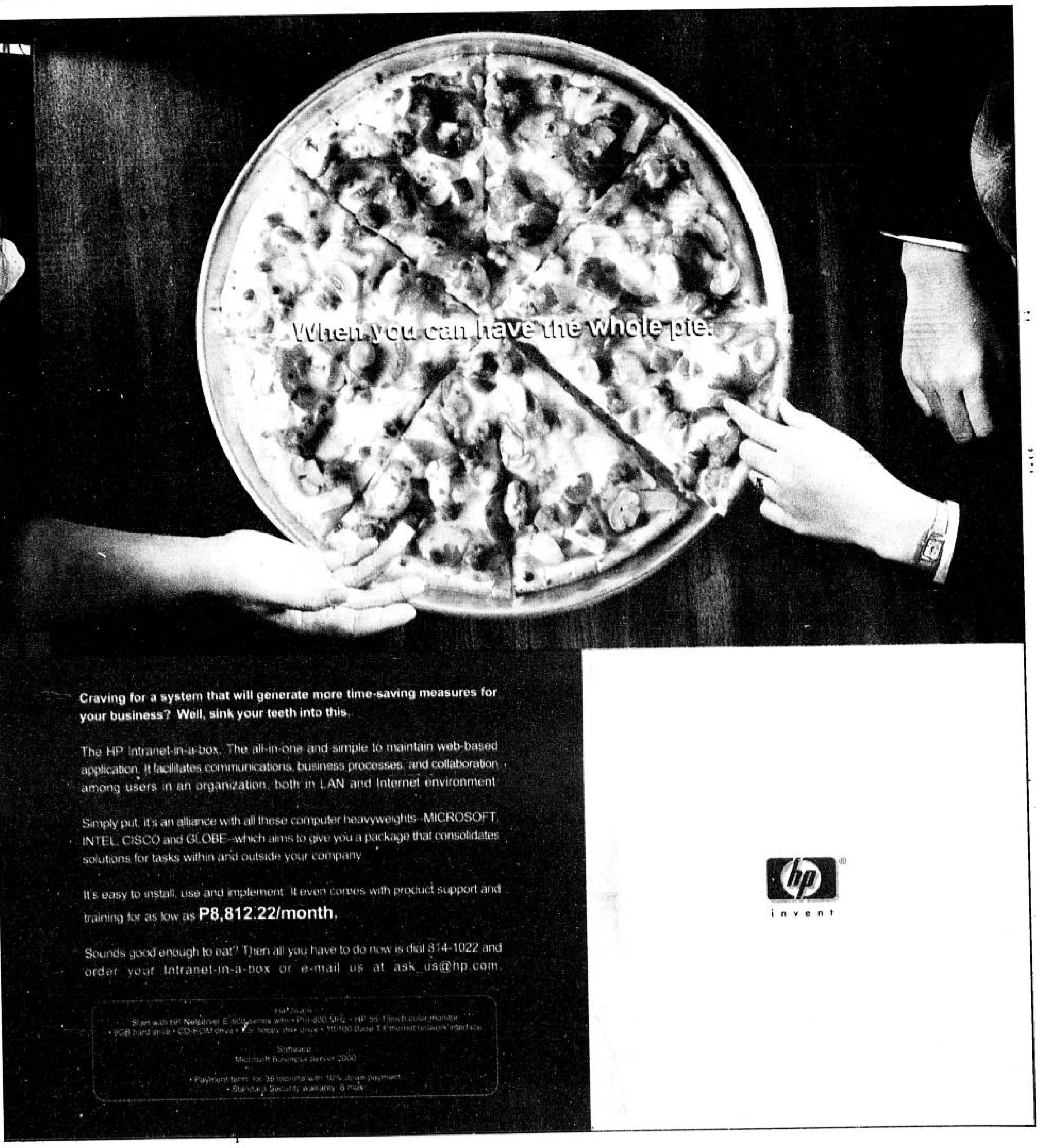
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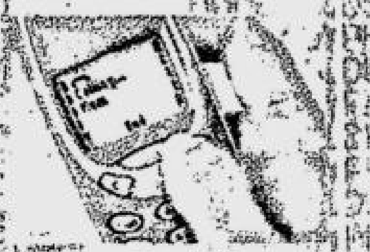
QUIET PLACES AND INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HER GLOBE HANDYPHONE.

Nicole Schulze,
Communication Arts Student
Commercial Model
GENTXTer
Heavy Caller
IDD User

Twenty-year-old Nicole was rarely seen in parties. "I prefer quiet places for conversations. Cinnzeo is a fave hangout!" she claims. So, when her boyfriend exposed her to the GENTXT level of fun, Nicole adjusted with such ease. With more than 80 partner establishments to hop from, Nicole never runs out of hangouts that suit her style. "I also love watching GENTXT movie premiers even if I have a hard time fitting it in my schedule," she shares.

On weekends, when out-of-town with family or friends, Nicole calls home frequently to check on her terriers, Olga and Joey. With her Globe Handyphone, "I am assured my pets had a good night sleep in my bed and their daily dose of vitamins!" This she shares even as she lazes under the Boracay sun with a crisp copy of the latest paperback.

"I use it more often than my landline. You never know where the people you need to call are!" she quips. Thus, Nicole considers her Globe Handyphone as her line to everything—from the most to the least important of calls. She'd call her mom if she'd be late. She'd call her carpool mates if she can't ride with them. She'd call her boyfriend when she gets home. "And when I get this feeling that my best friends, who are now in the US, miss home, I would give them a call as well," she beams.



Joey

GEN TXT

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